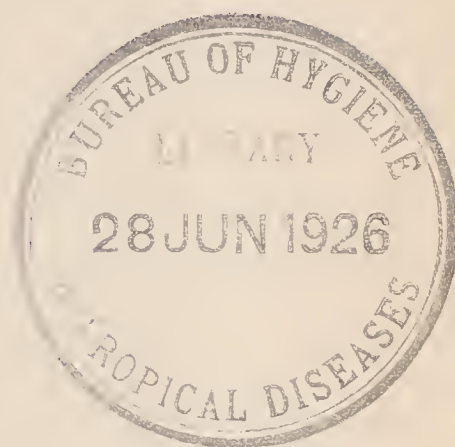
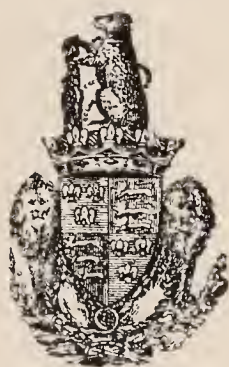


COUNTY BOROUGH OF WALSALL.



# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER

TOGETHER WITH THE REPORT OF THE


CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR,

FOR THE YEAR 1925.

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JAMES A. M. CLARK, M.D. CH.B. D.P.H.



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# COUNTY BOROUGH OF WALSALL.

## THE HEALTH COMMITTEE

(FROM NOVEMBER, 1924 TO NOVEMBER, 1925.)

*Chairman—*

ALDERMAN C. C. WALKER.

*Vice-Chairman—*

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR (Councillor H. H. HUCKER, J.P.)

Alderman E. SHELLEY, J.P.

Councillor S. AMPHLET.

„ M. J. SOMERFIELD.

„ R. T. BRADLEY.

„ G. W. WARNER.

„ S. E. EDGE.

„ J. WILLIAMS.

„ R. B. SUTTON.

## MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE.

*Chairman—*

ALDERMAN C. C. WALKER.

*Vice-Chairman—*

Alderman G. W. WARNER.

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR (Councillor H. H. HUCKER, J.P.)

Alderman E. SHELLEY, J.P.

Councillor J. A. LECKIE.

Councillor A. BROCKHURST, J.P.

\*Mrs. ROLAND SMITH.

„ P. COLLINS.

\*Mrs. E. COTTERELL

„ T. E. HADEN.

\*Mrs. MARY B. DEWSBURY, J.P.

## HEALTH (TUBERCULOSIS) SUB-COMMITTEE.

*Chairman—*

ALDERMAN C. C. WALKER.

*Vice-Chairman—*

Alderman G. W. WARNER.

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR (Councillor H. H. HUCKER, J.P.)

Alderman M. J. SOMERFIELD.

\*Miss E. HOLLOWAY.

Councillor S. E. EDGE.

\*Mr. H. B. WEBSTER.

„ R. B. SUTTON.

\*Mr. J. WHISTON.

## EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

*Chairman—*

ALDERMAN E. SHELLEY, J.P.

*Vice-Chairman—*

Councillor J. A. LECKIE.

Councillor A. BROCKHURST, J.P.

\*Mrs. T. A. SMITH.

„ D. CARTWRIGHT.

\*Mr. E. N. MARSHALL.

„ W. D. FORSYTH.

\*Mr. H. BULLOCK.

„ H. L. LESTER.

\*Mr. T. H. BUTLER.

„ F. B. SHUFFREY.

\*Mr. H. SKEELS.

„ W. J. STARKS

\*Mr. H. A. TUCKER.

„ R. B. SUTTON.

\*Co-opted Members.

COUNTY BOROUGH OF WALSALL.

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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

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*To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the  
County Borough of Walsall.*

MR. MAYOR, MRS. CRESSWELL, AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on the Health of the County Borough of Walsall for the year 1925.

This report differs from previous reports in that it is a "Survey Report," containing a survey of the work accomplished during the past five years. It follows closely on the lines recommended by the Ministry of Health.

The population as at June 30th, 1925, has been estimated by the Registrar General as 102,300.

The Birth Rate once more shows a decline, being 22'06 per 1,000 of the population as against 23'31 in 1924, and an average of 24'40 during the previous five years.

The number of Marriages also shows a decrease being 870 as against 890 in 1924.

The Death Rate shows an increase being 13'5 per 1,000 as against 11'91 in 1924, and 12'2 for the whole country. The Tuberculosis Death Rate shows a slight increase being 1'21 as against 1'13 in 1924 (all forms), and for the Respiratory form of the disease



0.99 as against 0.89. A diagram has been included in this report to show the relationship existing between the death rates from Pneumonia, Respiratory Tuberculosis, and Bronchitis, during the past 25 years. This shows very clearly that a fall in the Tuberculosis rate is accompanied by a fall in the Bronchitis rate, and further that a high incidence in the Pneumonia death rate is followed a few years later by an increase in the Tuberculosis death rate.

Pneumonia accounted for 148 deaths, a considerable increase on the previous year when 106 deaths were attributed to this cause the death rate rising from 1.04 to 1.44 per 1,000 of the population. Bronchitis caused 122 deaths, a death rate of 1.19 as against 1.09 in 1924, or a death rate of 1.07.

Cancer and Malignant disease caused 99 deaths as against 94 in the previous year.

Infantile Mortality has risen from 78.09 per 1,000 births to the high rate of 115.19, the highest rate in any year since 1916. This serious increase is due as I show in this report, to the presence of epidemics of Measles and Whooping Cough, which with their concomitants, Bronchitis and Pneumonia, were prevalent throughout the greater part of the year.

During the first quarter of the year, Influenza was particularly prevalent, and the continued prevalence of Diphtheria throughout the year has again thrown much additional work on the Health Department. At the end of the year German Measles and Scarlet Fever showed signs of spreading. As I have stated in previous reports, our efforts in combating and controlling outbreaks of Infectious Disease are greatly handicapped by the lack of Hospital accommodation.

In spite of the efforts of the Housing Committee, there is still an acute housing shortage and the evils of overcrowding are still with us.

In conclusion I would thank the members of the Council and in particular the members of the Health Committee for the consideration they have shown me during the year.

To Mr. Hubble, Chief Sanitary Inspector and to each and every member of my staff, I am indebted for their loyal co-operation and help throughout the year.

I am, Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JAMES A. M. CLARK, M.D., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

May, 1926.

## RETROSPECT AND PROSPECT.

The developments in Public Health matters during the past five years have not been of any magnitude, the most important improvements which have taken place being those in connection with the staff. The Medical and Nursing Services of the Corporation have been reorganised and co-ordinated, with a corresponding gain in efficiency and economy. Although more than twice the amount of Home Visiting is now being done by the Health Visitors, there has been no numerical increase in the Nursing Staff during the past five years. With the co-ordination in the Medical Staffs there has also been a fifty per cent. increase in the amount of School Medical Work done.

On April 1st, 1924, the part time School Dentist was replaced by a full time appointment.

In April, 1925, a Child Welfare Centre was opened at Bloxwich, this making the fourth Welfare Centre to be established in the Borough.

In April, 1921, an additional Sanitary Inspector was appointed bringing our total number of Assistant Sanitary Inspectors to four.

To bring our Public Health Services up to a normal standard of efficiency, there are many requirements which I feel it my duty to bring to your notice. First and foremost is an efficient Infectious Diseases Hospital, the lack of which causes the officials of the Health Department much avoidable anxiety, and hampers them in many ways in their efforts to control outbreaks of infectious disease.

A Maternity home either in conjunction with existing institutions or not, is in these days of overcrowding a real necessity. With this we naturally link the establishment of an Ante-natal Clinic and the provision of Dental Treatment for expectant mothers.

The provision too of an Artificial Sunlight Lamp at one of the Welfare Clinics near the centre of the town, would be of untold benefit to many delicate babies, and babies with early rickets.

With the great development of Housing in the Caldmore district the rearrangement of the present Welfare Clinics and the establishment of a further Centre in that district may have to be considered in the near future.

There is room for further developments in the School Medical Services. The provision of an Orthopædic Clinic, already approved of by the Town Council, is most important. The establishment of an additional School Clinic has already been approved of, and will do much to obviate the very great overcrowding which exists at the present School Clinics. More dental work in the schools will also have to be overtaken, and an additional Open Air School would prove of the utmost value.

The unsatisfactory state of some of the Registered Slaughterhouses in the Borough has been commented upon in previous Special and Annual Reports. Under the Walsall Corporation Act, 1925, we have certain powers for dealing with these, but until a Public Abattoir is provided, the Slaughterhouses cannot be satisfactorily dealt with.

#### EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

		Total	M.	F.	
Births	Legitimate	2,190	1,123	1,067	Birth Rate 22'06
	Illegitimate	67	38	29	
Deaths		1,390			Death Rate 13'58

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of childbirth—

From Sepsis	...	...	...	3
„ other causes		...	...	11

Deaths of Infants under one year of age per 1,000 births—

Legitimate	115'52	Illegitimate	104'47	Total	115'19
Deaths from Measles (all ages)		...	...	...	67
„ Whooping Cough (all ages)			...	...	55
„ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)				.	38



**Coroner's Inquests**—One hundred and sixteen Inquests were held in the Borough during the year, 72 males and 44 females :—  
14 under the age of 1 year, 21 between the ages of 1 and 16 years, and 31 from 16 years and above.

Post-Mortem examinations ordered by Coroner	..	28
Summary of Inquests:—	M.	F.
Death by Murder	—	1
„ „ Suicide	5	3
„ „ Manslaughter and Infanticide	1	—
„ „ Want, Exposure, etc	—	—
„ „ Excessive drinking	—	—
„ „ Want of attention at Birth	—	2
„ „ Accident or Misadventure	24	16
„ from Natural Causes	40	22
Stillborn	2	—
	<hr/>	
	72	44
	<hr/>	

Inquests of children suffocated whilst in bed:—

Accidental	...	2	—
------------	-----	---	---

Inquests on bodies of newly born children	...	1	3
---	-----	---	---

### GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres)	...	7,483
Population	At	96,926
Number of inhabited houses	Census	19,344
„ „ Families	1921.	20,728
Population (1925) Estimated	...	102,300
Number of inhabited houses (1925)	...	20,809
Rateable Value	...	£370,657
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	£1,360
Population per acre	...	13.67
Number of persons per house	...	4.92
Number of Marriages in Walsall Registration District		870



**Marriages.**—There is a decrease in the number of Marriages this year, 870 taking place, whilst last year 890 were contracted.

**Births** —The number of Births registered in the Borough during the year was 2,248 of which 1,157 were males and 1,091 were females. These are the crude figures, and allowance has to be made for births to non-residents occurring in Walsall, and for births to residents whilst the latter were temporarily staying in some other town.

The correct figures are males 1,161 females 1,096 giving a new total of 2,257 equivalent to a Birth Rate of 22·06 per 1,000. Of this number 67 were illegitimate births, as compared with 68 during 1924.

The average birth rate for the last five years is 24·40.

The following table gives the number of births registered in the Borough :—

		Male	Female	Total
1st quarter	...	259	263	522
2nd „	...	322	288	610
3rd „	...	305	270	575
4th „	...	271	270	541
Total	...	1157	1091	2248

**Deaths.**—The number of deaths registered during the year was 1,377 giving a rate per thousand of the population of 13·46, an increase on the previous year, when we had 1,220 deaths, with a rate of 12·01. If we exclude the number of persons (63) dying in the Borough belonging to other districts, and include (76) those belonging to the Borough dying beyond the Borough, we have a corrected number of 1,390 giving a death rate of 13·58. The average death rate for the past five years is 12·69.

Mortality from all causes, at subjoined ages of residents belonging to the Borough :—

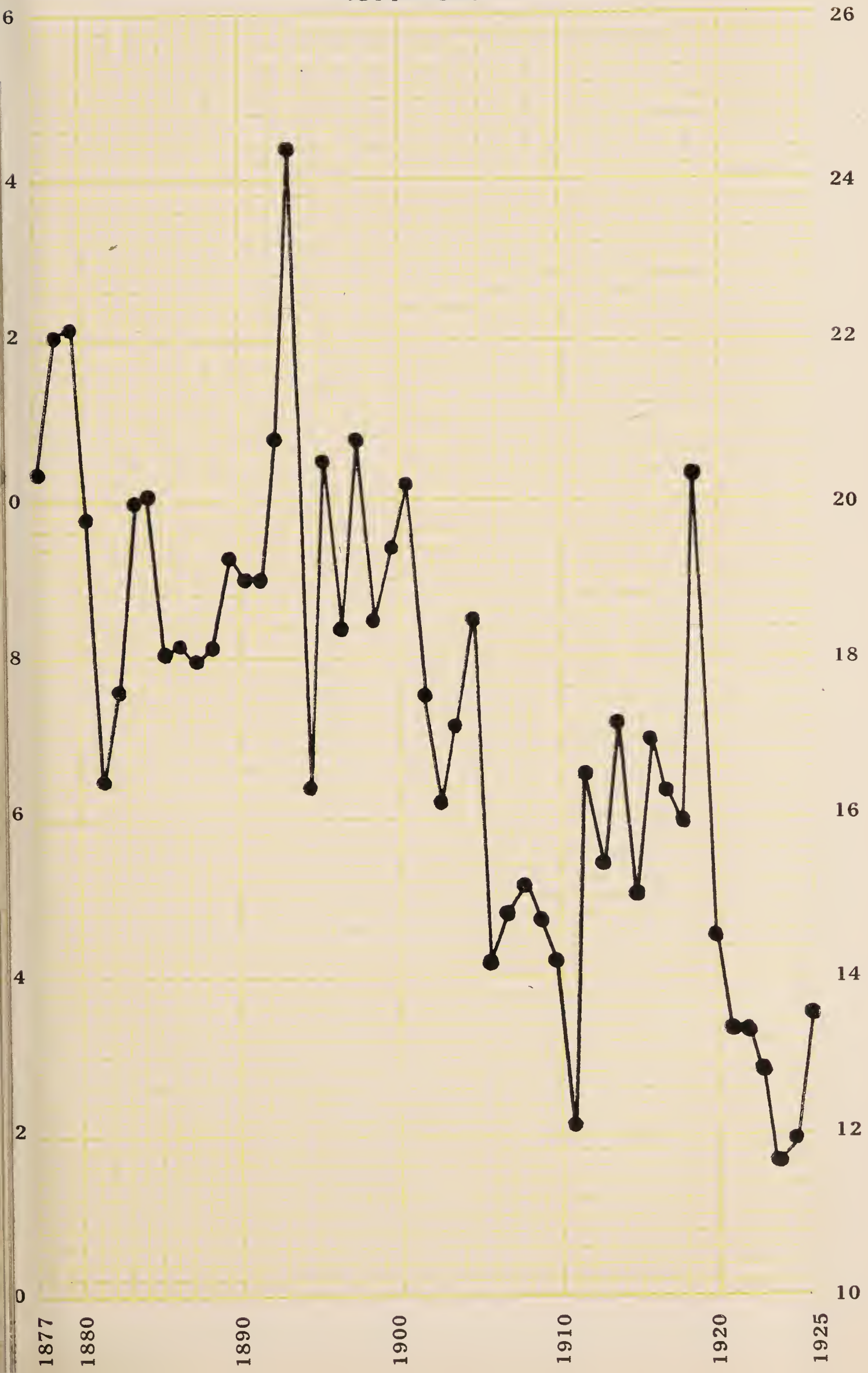
At all Ages	Under 1 year	1 and under 2	2 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and under 75	75 and upwards
1,390	260	109	95	73	52	156	292	193	160

# DEATH RATE.

(at all ages and from all causes)

PER 1,000 POPULATION.

1877—1925.







**Physical Features.**—The centre of the Borough (the Bridge), is 392 feet above sea level. This may be considered as practically the lowest portion of the Borough and from here the surface gradually rises in all directions reaching its highest point at the northern end, Bloxwich being 538 feet above sea level. The soil consists in the main of clay, in some parts there are sand and gravel and in the Hatherton ward, limestone. The surface is rather uneven, some of the streets having a considerable incline.

On the whole, Walsall may be considered as bracing and fairly healthy, the most common of minor affections of which complaint is made being Catarrh. Naso-Pharyngeal Catarrh in particular being particularly prevalent. Rheumatic affections, particularly of an acute type are not common.

The town is well supplied with public parks, their total area being considerably over 100 acres. At Reedswood Park where our Open Air School is situated, we have a good example of municipal afforestation, a desolate region, at one time full of pit mounds having been planted with trees and being now one of the most pleasant and most picturesque spots in the district. Open Air Swimming Baths have been provided at Bloxwich, Reedswood Park and in the Arboretum.

**Social Conditions.**—Walsall is entirely an industrial town, having a multiplicity of trades, and in the past was known principally for its leather goods, everything connected with leather, from the raw hide to the finished article being produced. The one time staple industry of saddlery has been replaced to a large extent by the fancy leather trade and by the manufacture of leather goods required for the motor and motor cycle trades. Other important trades are Malleable Iron Castings, Motor Fittings, and those which have a direct relation to saddlery, such as Cart-gear and Hames, Bits, Spurs and Stirrups, Bridles, Saddler's Tools, Spring Hooks, Buckles, &c., Brushes, Nuts, Bolts, Tubes, all sorts and sizes, also Electrical Fittings, and Artificial Teeth.

There are no collieries within the Borough, and the 2,900 colliers who reside in the district travel backwards and forwards to the Cannock Chase Colliery District on the north and east boundaries.

It cannot be said that any particular occupation exerts a deleterious influence upon the health of those engaged in it.

At the present time there is much unemployment and consequently the standard of living is not high. At the end of the year approximately five per cent of the inhabitants were on poor law relief. There are approximately 2,000 old age pensioners in the Borough. Although the rates are high, the rateable value of the Borough is low compared with towns of a similar size, over 70% of the inhabited houses having a rateable value of £10 or less, 21% at from £10 to £20 and only 8% being rated at over £20.

The Walsall General Hospital contains 100 beds which are at all times fully occupied, there not being nearly sufficient beds to deal adequately with the needs of the town and district. At the Poor Law Infirmary there are 184 beds, and of these beds over 80% are occupied throughout the year.



**TABLE I.**  
**Walsall County Borough.—WHOLE DISTRICT**  
**INFANT MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1925**

Net Deaths from stated Causes at various Ages under One Year of Age.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks.	1 & un. 3 mths.	3 & un. 6 mths.	6 & un. 9 mths	9 & un. 12 mths	Total deaths under one Year.	Bloxwich.	Leamore	Birchills	Hatherton	Paddock	Bridge	Pleck	Caldmore
ALL CAUSES—Certified	46	12	14	14	86	46	32	43	53	260	19	33	65	35	26	25	36	21
Uncertified	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	8	11	...	1	4	4	...	1	1	...
Whooping Cough ...	...	..	...	1	1	5	3	3	11	32	2	1	6	6	2	2	1	3
Other Common Infectious Diseases ...	...	...	...	1	1	1	1	4	4	11	5	1	1	...	...	1	2	1
Diarrhoea and Enteritis ...	...	...	1	3	4	7	11	4	7	33	2	1	12	7	2	5	2	2
Premature Birth ...	29	5	2	4	40	2	...	...	...	42	2	7	9	3	6	1	8	6
Congenital Defects, Atelectasis, Malformations ...	2	...	3	1	6	5	...	...	...	11	1	1	...	1	3	1	...	4
Congenital Debility Sclerema and Icterus ...	6	4	7	3	20	11	3	1	...	35	2	8	8	3	6	3	3	2
Percentage of Developmental and Wasting Diseases ...	80.4	75.0	85.7	57.1	76.7	39.1	9.3	2.3	...	33.8								
Tubercular Diseases ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	1	3	...	...	2	...	...	1	...	...
Convulsions ...	1	...	...	...	1	2	1	1	1	6	1	2	...	1	...	1	1	...
Bronchitis and Pneumonia ...	...	2	1	...	3	8	9	21	18	59	2	7	17	7	2	8	16	...
Other causes ...	8	1	...	1	10	5	2	6	3	26	2	4	6	3	5	1	2	3
Totals	46	12	14	14	86	46	32	43	53	260	19	33	65	35	26	25	36	21

Net Births in the year—legitimate, 2,190; illegitimate, 67.

Net Deaths in the year of legitimate infants, 253 ; illegitimate infants, 7.

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TABLE II.  
WALSALL COUNTY BOROUGH.

Causes of, and Ages at Death during the Year 1925.

CAUSES OF DEATH	Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents" whether occurring within or without the District.										WARDS Nett Deaths at all Ages of "Residents" belonging to Localities, whether occurring in or beyond the District.									Total Deaths whether of "Residents" or "Non-Residents" in Public Institutions in the District.
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	Bloxwich	Leamore	Birchills	Hatherton	Paddock	Bridge	Pleck	Caldmore	Walsall Workhouse	
	All Ages	Under 1 year.	1 and under 2 years	2 and under 5 years	5 and under 15 years	15 and under 25 years	25 and under 45 years	45 and under 65 years	65 and under 75 years.	75 and upwards										
Enteric Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Small-pox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles ...	67	11	30	21	5	...	...	...	...	...	9	8	23	11	2	4	7	3	...	...
Scarlet Fever ...	2	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	1
Whooping-cough ...	55	23	20	8	4	...	...	...	...	...	5	3	9	16	4	4	4	10	...	2
Diphtheria and Croup ...	39	3	5	14	14	1	1	1	...	...	12	8	2	7	1	2	3	4	...	25
Influenza ...	65	8	3	4	...	2	7	27	10	4	12	5	12	10	5	4	4	13	...	...
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	5	...	...	1	1	...	3	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	1	...	1	...	...	1
Meningococcal Meningitis ...	2	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Tuberculosis of Respiratory system ...	102	1	2	2	5	24	44	23	1	...	11	15	13	6	9	17	15	16	...	24
Other Tuberculous diseases ...	22	2	4	6	3	2	4	1	...	...	2	3	6	2	5	1	3	...	...	8
Cancer, malignant disease ...	99	...	...	...	...	...	10	52	32	5	4	10	11	10	10	11	15	27	1	27
Rheumatic Fever ...	8	...	...	...	3	2	...	2	1	...	1	...	1	...	1	1	3	1	...	2
Diabetes ...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...
Cerebral hæmorrhage etc ...	53	...	...	...	...	2	...	18	21	12	4	9	9	7	...	5	9	9	1	11
Heart Disease ...	115	...	...	...	1	2	18	43	37	14	18	12	17	12	9	12	19	16	...	26
Arterio-sclerosis ...	28	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	8	14	3	2	4	3	4	7	2	3	...	10
Bronchitis ...	122	20	10	1	3	...	2	26	31	29	13	11	28	5	6	15	27	16	1	6
Pneumonia (all forms) ...	148	38	25	16	11	1	17	21	13	5	14	27	33	19	11	14	15	14	1	30
Other Respiratory Diseases ...	12	1	...	1	1	...	1	4	3	1	...	3	3	2	1	1	1	1	...	5
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum ...	6	...	...	...	...	...	1	5	...	...	...	2	...	2	1	...	1	...	...	5
Diarrhœa etc., ...	43	33	5	3	...	...	...	1	...	1	2	4	12	8	4	5	2	6	...	8
Appendicitis and Typhlitis ...	14	...	...	1	3	...	4	6	...	...	2	2	2	1	2	1	2	2	...	13
Cirrhosis of liver ...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
Acute and Chronic Nephritis ...	22	...	...	...	...	2	4	10	4	2	3	3	1	3	3	2	5	2	...	7
Puerperal Sepsis ...	3	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	3
Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition ...	11	...	...	...	...	2	9	...	...	...	...	1	4	1	1	2	1	1	...	4
Congenital Debility & Malformation, Premature Birth ...	92	88	1	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	18	17	8	16	3	13	12	...	7
Suicides ...	8	...	...	...	...	...	2	5	...	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	...	1	...	3
Other Deaths from Violence ...	36	2	...	3	5	5	7	4	5	5	...	6	3	8	1	4	8	5	1	34
Other defined diseases ...	204	29	4	7	14	7	19	33	24	67	16	25	34	11	23	22	37	32	4	119
Causes ill-defined or unknown ...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
All causes ...	1390	260	109	95	73	52	156	292	193	160	141	182	247	154	123	138	198	197	*10	384

\*Previous place of abode not known.

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Table III.  
WALSALL COUNTY BOROUGH.

Vital Statistics of whole district during 1925 and previous years.

YEAR	Popula- tion estimated to Middle of each Year	BIRTHS,			Total Deaths Registered in the District		Transferable Deaths		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.			
		Uncorrected Number	NETT.		Number	Rate	of Non- residents registered in the District.	of Resi- dents not registered in the District	Under Year of Age		At all Ages	
			Number	Rate					Number	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births	Number	Rate
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1916	Birth 97,384	2515	2510	25·82	1451	16·21	58	73	282	112·12	1466	16·38
1917	Death 89,506	2152	2149	21·94	1398	15·89	54	60	238	110·59	1404	15·96
	Birth 98,047											
1918	Death 87,957	2033	2035	20·72	1735	19·95	54	89	222	110·55	1787	20·39
	Birth 98,192											
1919	Death 87,635	2107	2098	21·71	1345	14·50	69	76	224	103·36	1352	14·58
	(Birth) 96,591											
1920	(Death) 92,724 96,419	2977	2987	30·97	1261	13·07	43	67	300	100·77	1285	13·32
1921	98,800	2768	2765	27·98	1307	13·23	56	71	312	112·83	1322	13·38
1922	99,890	2539	2530	25·32	1291	12·92	66	63	241	94·91	1288	12·89
1923	100,400	2335	2342	23·32	1175	11·70	45	43	220	93·93	1173	11·68
1924	101,500	2375	2356	23·31	1220	12·01	70	59	184	78·09	1209	11·91
1925	102,300	2248	2257	22·06	1377	13·43	63	76	260	115·19	1390	13·58

Area of District in Acres :  
(exclusive of area ... 7483  
covered by water)

Total population at all ages ... 96,926

At Census  
of 1921



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# Causes of Death at different periods of Life in Walsall County Borough, 1925.

As furnished by the Registrar - General.

Causes of Death.				Sex.	All Ages.	0-	1-	2-	5-	15-	25-	45-	65-	75-
ALL CAUSES	...	...	...	M	740	139	54	46	38	25	86	171	101	80
				F	650	121	55	49	35	27	70	121	92	80
1 Enteric Fever	...	...	...	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
				F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2 Small-pox	...	..	...	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
				F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3 Measles	...	...	...	M	36	7	17	7	5	—	—	—	—	—
				F	31	4	13	14	—	—	—	—	—	—
4 Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
				F	3	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 Whooping Cough	...	...	...	M	26	14	7	4	1	—	—	—	—	—
				F	29	9	13	4	3	—	—	—	—	—
6 Diphtheria and Croup	...	...	...	M	14	2	2	4	4	1	1	—	—	—
				F	25	1	3	10	10	—	—	1	—	—
7 Influenza	...	...	...	M	41	3	3	3	—	2	4	19	6	1
				F	24	5	—	1	—	—	3	8	4	3
8 Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	M	3	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	—
				F	2	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
9 Meningococcal Meningitis	...	...	...	M	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
				F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10 Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...	...	...	M	61	1	2	1	1	10	28	18	—	—
				F	41	—	—	1	4	14	16	5	1	—
11 Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	...	M	10	2	1	3	2	—	1	1	—	—
				F	12	—	3	3	1	2	3	—	—	—
12 Cancer, malignant disease	...	...	...	M	49	—	—	—	—	—	2	26	17	4
				F	50	—	—	—	—	—	8	26	15	1
13 Rheumatic Fever	...	...	...	M	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
				F	6	—	—	—	2	2	—	2	—	—
14 Diabetes	...	...	..	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
				F	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
15 Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc.,	...	...	...	M	28	—	—	—	—	2	—	5	13	8
				F	25	—	—	—	—	—	—	13	8	4
16 Heart Disease	...	...	...	M	58	—	—	—	—	2	8	24	16	8
				F	57	—	—	—	1	—	10	19	21	6
17 Arterio-sclerosis	...	...	...	M	19	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	6	8
				F	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	6
18 Bronchitis	...	..	...	M	68	10	2	1	3	—	2	16	20	14
				F	54	10	8	—	—	—	—	10	11	15
19 Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	M	90	19	14	13	5	—	14	17	4	4
				F	58	19	11	3	6	1	3	5	9	1
20 Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	M	9	1	—	—	—	—	1	4	2	1
				F	3	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	—
21 Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	..	...	...	M	5	—	—	—	—	—	1	4	—	—
				F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
22 Diarrhœa etc.	...	...	...	M	21	15	4	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
				F	22	18	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	1
23 Appendicitis and Typhlitis	...	...	...	M	8	—	—	1	3	—	1	3	—	—
				F	6	—	—	—	—	—	3	3	—	—
24 Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...	...	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
				F	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
25 Acute and Chronic Nephritis	...	...	...	M	11	—	—	—	—	—	3	5	1	2
				F	11	—	—	—	—	2	1	5	3	—
26 Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
				F	3	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—
27 Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition	...	...	...	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
				F	11	—	—	—	—	2	9	—	—	—
28 Congenital Debility, and Malforma- tion, Premature Birth	..	...	...	M	51	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
				F	41	37	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
				M	6	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	—	1
29 Suicide	...	...	...	F	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
				M	25	1	—	2	4	5	6	3	3	1
30 Other deaths from violence	...	...	...	F	11	1	—	1	1	—	1	1	2	4
				M	95	13	2	3	8	3	10	16	12	28
31 Other Defined Diseases	...	...	...	F	108	16	2	3	6	4	9	17	12	39
				M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
32 Causes, ill-defined or unknown	...	...	...	F	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

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**TABLE V.**  
**BIRTH-RATE DEATH-RATE AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY during the Year 1925**  
**As furnished by the Registrar General.**

Table showing Death-rates, &c. in Walsall, as compared with England and Wales, 105 Great Towns 157 Smaller Towns and London. (The rates for England and Wales, and Walsall, have been calculated on a population estimated to the middle of 1925, while those for the Towns have been calculated on populations estimated to the middle of 1924.)

	BIRTH-RATE PER 1,000 TOTAL POPULATION.	ANNUAL DEATH-RATE PER 1,000 CIVILIAN POPULATION.									RATE PER 1,000 BIRTHS		PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL DEATHS.*		
		All Causes.	Enteric Fever.	Small-pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Diphtheria.	Influenza.	Violence.	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 years).	Total Deaths under one year.	Causes of death certified by Registered Medical Practitioners	Inquest Cases.	Uncertified Cause of Death
England and Wales ...	18·3	12·2	0·01	0·00	0·13	0·03	0·15	0·07	0·32	0·47	8·4	75	92·1	6·9	1·0
105 Great Towns, including London (Census Populations exceeding 50,000) ...	18·8	12·2	0·01	0·00	0·17	0·03	0·18	0·09	0·30	0·43	10·8	79	92·1	7·3	0·6
157 Smaller Towns (Census Populations 20,000—50,000) ...	18·3	11·2	0·01	0·00	0·15	0·02	0·14	0·06	0·31	0·38	7·6	74	93·0	5·9	1·1
London ...	18·0	11·7	0·01	0·00	0·08	0·02	0·19	0·11	0·23	0·46	10·6	67	91·1	8·9	0·0
<b>Walsall</b> ...	<b>22·0</b>	<b>13·5</b>	<b>0·00</b>	<b>0·00</b>	<b>0·65</b>	<b>0·02</b>	<b>0·53</b>	<b>0·38</b>	<b>0·63</b>	<b>0·35</b>	<b>16·8</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>91·7</b>	<b>8·3</b>	<b>0·0</b>

\*Non-civilians are included in these figures for England and Wales but not for other areas.

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**TABLE VI.**  
**WALSALL COUNTY BOROUGH.**

Cases of Infectious Disease Notified during the Year 1925

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	Cases Notified in whole District													Total Cases Notified in each Locality										Total cases removed to Hospital.
	At all Ages	At Ages—Years.												1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
		Under 1	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and upwards	Bloxwich Ward	Leamore Ward	Birchills Ward	Hatherton Ward	Paddock Ward	Bridge Ward	Pleck Ward	Caldmore Ward	Walsall Workhouse	Walsall General Hospital	
Small-pox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cholera (C) Plague (P) ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria(including Membranous Croup) ...	349	5	20	27	27	36	115	58	21	26	8	6	...	121	116	16	20	6	5	20	16	21	8	297
Erysipelas ...	29	1	...	...	2	...	...	1	2	2	4	13	4	3	2	5	1	2	3	8	3	2	...	...
Scarlet Fever ...	198	...	5	6	17	16	86	46	16	3	3	...	...	23	23	24	22	25	11	29	36	2	3	38
Typhus Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Relapsing Fever (R) Continued Fever (C) ...	(c)1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever ...	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	6	1	...	...	1	4	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	1	7
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis ...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Poliomyelitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	32	32	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	1	2	3	4	2	5	8	2	...	6
Tuberculosis of Respiratory system ...	204	...	1	3	...	1	14	18	30	74	38	22	3	12	19	35	16	24	20	36	42	...	...	...
Other forms of Tuberculosis ...	85	2	12	10	6	7	16	11	3	11	5	2	...	10	9	15	6	12	5	18	10	...	...	...
Acute Encephalitis Lethargica ...	6	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	1	2	...	...	1	1	1	...	1	...	1	1	...	...	...
Acute Primary Pneumonia } ,, Influenzal ,, }	94	5	8	10	9	14	38	27	29	48	42	52	12	25	23	61	42	25	23	47	40	8	...	...
Malaria ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dysentery ...	2...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals ...	1207	46	46	56	61	74	270	162	103	172	103	95	19	201	198	159	110	100	69	165	158	35	12	348

Isolation Hospitals:—Enteric Fever Hospital, Hospital, St., Walsall; Small-pox Hospital, Sneyd Lane, Bloxwich  
Diphtheria cases are treated at Walsall General Hospital, Walsall, a retaining fee of £20 per quarter is paid to the Executive Committee.

The Agreement with the Walsall General Hospital terminated at the end of the year.

Scarlet Fever cases are treated at the Isolation Hospital, Cheslyn Hay belonging to the Cannock Rural District Council.

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## TABLE VII.

## WALSALL COUNTY BOROUGH.

**RETURN of the Number of Cases of Infectious Disease reported to the Medical Officer of Health during the Year 1925, and of Deaths from the Diseases notified.**

	Cases Notified.	Deaths Registered.
Small Pox ... ..	...	...
Cholera, Plague ... ..	...	...
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup) ...	349	39
Erysipelas ... ..	29	..
Scarlet Fever ... ..	198	2
Typhus Fever ... ..	...	...
Enteric Fever ... ..	...	...
Relapsing Fever or Continued Fever ... ..	1	...
Puerperal Fever ... ..	8	3
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis ... ..	1	...
Poliomyelitis ... ..	...	...
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ... ..	204	102
Other Forms of Tuberculosis ... ..	85	22
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ... ..	32	...
Encephalitis Lethargica ... ..	6	5
Acute Primary Pneumonia ... ..	294	148
„ Influenzal „ ... ..		
Malaria ... ..	...	...
Dysentery ... ..	...	...



## CAUSES OF ILLNESS.

SCARLET FEVER.—During 1925, 198 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified as compared with 222 cases notified during 1924, the incidence of the disease being fairly evenly distributed throughout the year.

34 cases were treated in Hospital, either at Cheslyn Hay, Sneyd Lane or Hospital Street.

There were two deaths from the disease, one in a case treated at Hospital, the other a child nursed at home. The case mortality was 1·01% as against 2·25% in 1924.

It has never been the custom in the County Borough of Walsall to remove cases of Scarlet Fever to Isolation Hospitals for the simple reason that there has never been any accommodation in the Borough for such cases, we have had to rely upon outside authorities, and consequently when difficult cases have occurred we have very frequently been unable to obtain Hospital accommodation for them. It is admitted that Isolation Hospitals have not helped to any extent to prevent the spread of the disease, but the lack of such facilities has oft-times caused much unnecessary worry to the Public Health Department.

I have gone into our records carefully for the past two years and find that in 1925, of the total number of cases Scarlet Fever notified, viz:—198, 179 may be regarded as Primary cases and 19 as Secondary cases, i.e. cases occurring in the same household after notification of the first case.

Of the 19 Secondary cases, 4 occurred within 24 hours of the onset of the first case, 6 within 7 days, 7 within 21 days, 1 within 6 weeks and 1 within 9 weeks.

In all, 34 cases were treated in Hospital during 1925, the cases for Hospital Isolation being selected from houses where no proper isolation was possible, where the parents were engaged in food or clothing trades, and post operative cases from the General Hospital where surgical dressings have had to be done.



There were no "return" cases during 1925, from those treated in Hospital.

During 1924, there were 222 notifications, 194 cases being treated at home, 195 may be regarded as Primary and 27 as Secondary cases. 16 of these developing the disease within 7 days from the onset of the first case, 3 within 9 days, 3 within 3 weeks, 3 within 8 weeks. Two were "return" cases from cases treated in Hospital, developing the disease within 3 and 7 days respectively of the discharge of the first case from Hospital.

An attempt has been made to measure the factor of overcrowding on the incidence of Scarlet Fever but no very definite conclusions can be drawn from the meagre figures at my disposal.

Primary notifications were received in 24 cases where the family resided in a three-roomed house. Out of 73 children under 10, and presumably susceptible, only 3 Secondary cases occurred.

71 Primary notifications came from 4 roomed houses, and here out of 208 susceptible children, only 5 Secondary cases occurred. From 5 roomed houses, there were 62 Primary notifications, 6 Secondary cases occurred amongst 133 susceptible children. In larger sized houses there were 20 Primary notifications, 2 Secondary cases occurring amongst 46 susceptible children.

The type of disease which has been prevalent for some years now in this Borough is of an exceedingly mild character, and so far as the above figures go, it will be noted that the size of the house and the number of child occupants, are not factors which influence the spread of the disease.

The average yearly incidence of the disease for the past five years has been 1.6, and for the past twenty-five years 3.1.

DIPHTHERIA —The incidence of Diphtheria during the year has again been high, 349 cases having been notified as against 363 in 1924, 54 cases in 1923 and 42 in 1922.

During the first quarter of the year, 136 cases were notified as compared with 21 in the corresponding quarter of 1924. During the second quarter 65 cases were notified as compared with 34 in 1924. During the third quarter there was a decline in the incidence, 39 cases being notified as against 130 in the same period in the previous year. During the fourth quarter there were 109 cases notified, as against 179 in the last quarter of 1924. For the greater part of the year the disease has been confined to the Northern end of the Borough, Bloxwich and Leamore wards have had 237 of the total cases. In the last quarter of the year Leamore had 46 cases and Bloxwich 18. 21 cases have come from the Poor Law Infirmary and 8 from the Walsall General Hospital. In December there was a serious outbreak of Diphtheria in the Poor Law Infirmary, 17 patients and 4 nurses who developed the disease together with 8 patients and 4 nurses who were found to be "Carriers" were removed to Hospital before the end of the year. A further nurse and two patients were removed during the first week of January before the outbreak came to an end. It is my opinion that the outbreak had its origin in one of the Nursing Staff. This nurse had complained of a sore throat a week or so before the first case of Clinical Diphtheria developed, and she on swabbing was found to harbour the Klebs Loeffler Bacillus.

During the year we have constantly been up against the problem of late cases. Again and again we have had patients admitted to Hospital in an exceedingly grave condition—children who had been ill for several days or even a week before medical help was obtained, and of course too late to respond to treatment.

There were 39 deaths from the disease, a case mortality of 11·17% as against 7·43% in 1924.

## SCHICK TEST AND DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

During the latter part of 1924 and the early part of 1925, the staff of the Walsall General Hospital suffered severely from Diphtheria, one House Surgeon, three members of the Nursing Staff and three members of the Domestic Staff, developing Diphtheria within a period of less than three months. I accordingly advised the Executive Committee of the Hospital, that the remainder of the Staff should be "Schick Tested" and the positive reactors immunised. They readily agreed to my suggestion, and with the approval of the Health Committee, and at much personal inconvenience I carried out the tests and the subsequent immunisations.

In all, 41 members of the Staff were tested, 17 giving positive reactions. These were subsequently immunised. One of the Nursing Staff developed a slight attack of Diphtheria after her first immunising dose. All the other members of the Staff have remained free with the exception of one nurse who developed an attack of Diphtheria six months later, and when re-testing should have taken place. It is interesting to note that this nurse's course of injections was interrupted by an attack of Influenza. Owing to various causes, but principally to pressure of work, retesting of the Staff did not take place.

At the end of the year in consequence of an outbreak of Diphtheria at the Poor Law Infirmary, arrangements were made to Schick Test and immunise the Staff of that Institution in the early part of 1926.

That the immunisation of the Staff of the Walsall General Hospital has been of great value, I have no question, and I am quite confident that at early date the Executive Committees of all Hospitals will recognise the great value of having an Immune Staff and will insist upon all fresh members of their Staff being tested and immunised.



Arrangements have been made at the Welfare Centres to immunise the infants of those mothers who are desirous of protecting their children against Diphtheria. The response has been quite gratifying.

WHOOPING COUGH.—This disease which had not been much in evidence for some time, appeared in Palfrey during the latter part of the first quarter of the year. It spread rapidly throughout the Borough during April and May, and continued unabated during the third quarter of the year, and did not decline to any extent until December. 55 deaths were due to the disease, 23 of these being in children under the age of twelve months. There were no deaths from Whooping Cough during 1924.

MEASLES.—Measles also appeared in Epidemic form in Palfrey about April and spread rapidly throughout the town, and like Whooping Cough showed no signs of declining until the end of the year. There were 67 deaths from Measles as against 2 in 1924, 11 of the deaths being in children under the age of one year, and all but 5 of the deaths occurring in children under the age of five years. The Epidemic had a very marked effect upon school attendance particularly during the second quarter of the year.

INFLUENZA AND PNEUMONIA.—During the first quarter of the year there was a widespread outbreak of Influenza, fortunately of a mild type. All ages were attacked, school children in particular suffering severely. There were 65 deaths recorded during the year, 34 of these occurring during the first quarter.

Pneumonia, either as a complication of Influenza or as a Primary condition, has been unusually prevalent throughout the year, 294 cases of Primary or Influenzal Pneumonia having been notified as against 171 in 1924 and 111 in 1923.

Pneumonia, all types other than Pneumonia complicated by Influenza, accounted for 148 deaths, 79 of these being under the age of five years, and 40 over the age of 45.



The death rate from Pneumonia has accordingly risen from 1'04 per 1,000 in 1924 to 1'44 in 1925.

ENCEPHALITIS LETHARGICA.—During the year, 6 cases of Encephalitis Lethargica were notified. Two of these have apparently completely recovered, the other four were fatal.

OTHER CAUSES OF ILLNESS.—Mumps and German Measles were particularly prevalent during the latter part of the year. Three notifications of Smallpox were received during the year; all were subsequently cancelled. One suspected case was admitted to Sneyd Lane Hospital for observation.

### HEALTH WEEK.

Health and Baby Week was held on Tuesday, September 29th and succeeding days. The entries were more numerous than in any previous year and everything passed off very successfully. Many fine babies were entered for the various classes, and the judges had much difficulty in making their awards.

In addition, competitions in cooking, garment renovating and mothercraft were arranged for mothers, and ingenuity and handicraft competitions for fathers.

The Health, Education and Maternity Committees in co-operation with the Rotary Club, invited Dr. Saleeby to visit Walsall. His visit was most successful, addresses being given to large audiences of school children and to mothers during the afternoon on various aspects of Sunlight and Health. In the evening Dr. Saleeby addressed a large audience at a public meeting in the Town Hall.

For their Health and Baby Week effort in 1925 Walsall was awarded a Certificate of Merit by the National Baby Week Council.

## HOSPITALS PROVIDED OR SUBSIDISED BY THE COUNCIL.

1. **Tuberculosis.**—Pelsall Hall Sanatorium, 37 beds.

For Surgical Tuberculosis authority is given to send cases to the Shropshire Orthopædic Hospital, Oswestry; The Woodlands, Northfield, or to St. Gerrard's Hospital, Coleshill.

2. **Maternity.**—Certain cases of Puerperal Fever and also certain of those cases necessitating surgical interference at confinement are received at the Walsall General Hospital by arrangement with the Council who bear the cost of their treatment.

3. **Children.**—Nil.

4. **Fever**—Cases of Scarlet Fever are treated at the Isolation Hospital, Cheslyn Hay, under an arrangement with the Cannock R.D.C., a fee of 50/- per week is paid for each patient admitted from this borough.

Cases of Enteric Fever are treated when necessary at Hospital Street.

5. **Small-Pox.**—Cases of Small-pox are treated at the Isolation Hospital, Sneyd Lane, Bloxwich.

6. **Diphtheria.**—During the past year the Epidemic Hospital, Hospital street, has remained <sup>open</sup> for the treatment of cases of Diphtheria, 234 cases having received treatment during the year.

Cases of Diphtheria were also treated at the Walsall General Hospital.

The agreement which formerly existed with the Walsall General Hospital for the reception of certain cases of Diphtheria was terminated by the Executive Committee of the Hospital at the end of the year.

## INSTITUTIONAL PROVISION FOR UNMARRIED MOTHERS, ILLEGITIMATE AND HOMELESS CHILDREN IN THE DISTRICT.—

None except that which comes under the Poor Law Institution.

### Ambulance Facilities.

(a) For infectious disease cases a motor ambulance has now been provided and is at the Epidemic Hospital, Hospital Street.

(b) For non-infectious and accident cases a motor ambulance is kept at the Fire Station.

### CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

Two School Clinics are provided, one at Bradford Street and the other at Field Road, Bloxwich.

**Bradford Street.**—Open each day from 9 a.m.—1 p.m., 2–5 p.m.

**Field Road.**—Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday afternoons, 2-30—5 p.m.

The Dental Clinic and the Eye Clinic are both held at Bradford Street.

### INFANT WELFARE CENTRES.

<b>Ablewell Street.</b>	Monday	2-30—4-30 p.m.	Nurses' Day.
	Friday	2-30—4-30 p.m.	Doctor's Day.
<b>Field Road.</b>	Tuesday	2-30—4-30 p.m.	Nurses' Day.
	<del>Thursday</del> <del>Friday</del>	2-30—4-30 p.m.	Doctor's Day.
<b>Milton Street.</b>	Tuesday	2-30—4-30 p.m.	Doctor's Day.
	Thursday	2-30—4-30 p.m.	Nurses' Day.
<b>Stafford Street</b>	Wednesday	2-30—4-30 p.m.	Doctor's Day.
	Friday	2-30—4-30 p.m.	Nurses' Day.

### Tuberculosis Dispensary, Littleton Street.

Open each day 9 a.m.—1 p.m; 2-15—5-30 p.m.

Medical Clinics, Monday afternoon, Tuesday afternoon, Wednesday morning, Thursday evening, (1st and 3rd Thursdays 6-30—8 p.m.), Friday morning.

### V. D. Clinic, Walsall General Hospital.

Open for Males, Tuesday and Fridays, 7-30—9 p.m. Wednesday 4 p.m.

„ „ Females Thursday 4-5-30 p.m



## PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

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Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer :  
JAMES A. M. CLARK, M.D., Ch. B., D.P.H.

Assistant Medical Officer of Health :  
A. FAIRGRIEVE ADAMSON, M.D. Ch. B., D.P.H.  
(Terminated duties March 24th).  
AUSTIN J. B. GRIFFIN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.  
(Commenced duties March 25th).

School Medical Inspector :  
D. BARBARA NORMAN, M.B., B.Ch.

School Dentist :  
W. C. GRIFFITHS, L.D.S.

Venereal Diseases Medical Officer :  
× A. M. STUART, F.R.C.S.

Public Analyst :  
× F. E. THOMPSON, F.I.C.

Chief Sanitary Inspector :  
\*† ARTHUR THOMAS HUBBLE.

Assistant Inspectors :  
\*† ERNEST F. B. A. MINER, (Chief) Hatherton and Paddock Wards.  
\*† FRED TURNER, Bloxwich and Leamore.  
\*† IVOR O. WILLIAMS, Birchills and Pleck, Terminated duties April 11th.  
\*† WILLIAM SHAW, Birchills and Pleck. Commenced duties July 13th.  
\* HARRY JACKSON, Bridge and Caldmore  
\* Certificate as Inspector of Nuisances.  
† Certificate as Meat Inspector.

Superintendent Health Visitor and Inspector of Midwives :  
‡ Mrs. A. SAUNDERS, H.V., Cert. as Inspector of Nuisances.

Health Visitors :

‡ Miss L. JONES „ D. C. Mc. ILWAINE „ M. C. MILLER „ E. M. O'KELLY „ A. QUICK, H.V. ‡ „ A. E. ROGERS		Miss G. N. SADLER „ E. M. STUART ‡ „ M. TAYLOR ‡ „ C. TWIST ‡ „ E. WIDDOWSON
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‡ Certified Midwife.

Secretary Dispenser : Miss D. SQUIRE.

Clerks :  
Miss D. BOYCE.  
Miss M. E. GERRY.  
Mr. N. AULIFFE.

Office Boy :  
F. WEBB.

× The V.D. Medical Officer and Public Analyst are part time Officers.

## SUMMARY (FOR REFERENCE) OF NURSING ARRANGEMENTS, HOSPITALS AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS AVAILABLE FOR THE DISTRICT.

Professional Nursing in the Home :—

- (a) General—Victoria Nursing Institution.
- (b) Infectious Diseases—None.

Midwives—There are 33 practising midwives in the district, none of these were employed or subsidised by the Public Health Authority.

**Walsall General Hospital**—a voluntary institution.

### LABORATORY WORK.

During the year, 361 specimens were examined for the presence of Tubercle Bacilli, and 2,029 swabs for the presence of B. Diphtheria were examined at the Tuberculosis Dispensary, Littleton Street.

All other Pathological and Bacteriological examinations are undertaken by the Birmingham University.

### CHEMICAL WORK.

All chemical analyses are carried out by the Public Analyst, and for particulars of the work done during the year reference should be made to his report, pages 123 to 127.

### SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

Comparatively few privies remain, the majority of them being in outlying districts where there are no sewers.

Work of Sanitary Inspectors under Article XX of the Sanitary Officers (outside London) Order, 1910, see pages 33, 34.

### **Inspection of Places where Food is Prepared.**—

Inspection of meat is principally confined to inspection at slaughter-houses. Bake-houses are regularly inspected; the Sanitary condition is satisfactory. Particulars of unfit meat dealt with are given in the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector (pages 113, 114).

**Arrangements for Disinfection.**—Rooms used for infectious disease cases are fumigated on the recovery or removal of the patient with formalin or sulphur, the bedding is removed to the Hospital, Hospital Street, and dealt with in a Thresh Steam Disinfector.

LOCAL ACTS, BYE LAWS, etc., relating to  
PUBLIC HEALTH, in force in the  
COUNTY BOROUGH OF WALSALL

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LOCAL ACTS.

The Walsall Corporation Act, 1890.

The Walsall Corporation Act, 1914.

The Walsall Corporation Act, 1925.

ADOPTIVE ACTS.

The Public Health Act Amendments Act, 1890, Part III.

The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, Secs.  
34, 35, 37, 44, 45, 46, 50 and 51.

BYE-LAWS.

Slaughterhouses.

Houses-let-in-lodgings.

Common Lodging Houses.

REGULATIONS.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.

WALSALL CORPORATION ACT, 1925.

Under the Walsall Corporation Act, 1925, powers were obtained whereby—

1. The re-construction or alteration of drains has to be approved.
2. Notice of intention to alter or repair any drain must be given to the Chief Sanitary Inspector.
3. The manufacture of ice-cream is regulated.
4. Bye-laws may be made for promoting and securing sanitary and cleanly conditions in the manufacture, storage, etc., of any article intended to be sold for food.
5. Power is obtained to close registered slaughterhouses if such slaughterhouses are proved to be injurious or dangerous to the public health.



## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA. WATER.

With the exception of about 80 houses the whole of the Borough is supplied by the South Staffordshire Water Works Company with water for domestic use. The quality of the water is satisfactory, the supply constant and abundant; the Water Company have not had occasion to limit the quantity supplied during periods of drought.

Except in the older houses, where in some cases there are from 3 to 12 houses depending upon one stand pipe in the common yard for the domestic supply, each house has the water supply laid on and a tap fitted over a sink in a washhouse or scullery belonging to the house.

The sources of water supply are in the main, deep wells, reservoirs are in ground at a high level, and possibilities of contamination are remote. The water is rather hard, and there is practically no plumbo-solvent action, no known case of contamination of the water by lead has come to my knowledge. No action has been necessary in respect of any form of contamination during the year 1925.

## RIVERS AND STREAMS.

Owing to the excellent sewerage system there is very little pollution of streams in this area. Inspections are from time to time made along the courses of the streams with a view to detecting the discharge into them of any polluting liquids.

## DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Approximately 97% of the dwelling-houses in the Borough are drained to sewers, and 96% of the houses have closets on the water carriage system. Very close attention is paid to the sanitary condition of house drainage systems, and any defects are dealt with on becoming known.

Sewage Disposal Works are situate at Brockhurst Farm, Beechdale, and the Roughts, where the sewage is dealt with by Bacteria beds or land treatment.

### CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

At the end of the year there were under notice for conversion 64 privies, these conveniences being in streets or places where a sewer is available for use. In addition there are in the Borough approximately 581 houses in outlying areas at present unsewered which also have privies. The approximate number of privies in use at the end of the year was 643. The approximate number of water closets fitted with fresh water flush is 9,737. The approximate number of water closets which are not fitted with flushing cisterns and which have to be flushed by hand from a bucket or other receptacle is 9,366, the number of waste water closets is 85, and the number of pail closets, 25. The conversion of the remaining privies is contemplated. All existing privies at houses where a sewer is available for drainage are under notice and should be converted to water closets during 1926. Privies in unsewered districts will be dealt with, as sewers are provided. It should however be pointed out that the majority of unsewered houses are Farm Houses or isolated cottages in the more rural parts of the Borough. It is most probable that during 1926 from 40 to 50% of these unsewered houses will by reason of sewer extensions, be capable of being drained to a sewer, and in such case privy conversion will be insisted upon.

Privy conversion has been somewhat in abeyance from 1914 until 1925, the number dealt with in the past 5 years being; in 1921-9 privies converted to water closets, one privy demolished and a water closet substituted; in 1922-13 privy conversions; in 1923-no conversions; in 1924-30 conversions; in 1925-111 conversions and 46 privies demolished and water closets substituted making a total of 210 privies for which water closets have been substituted in the past 5 years.

## SCAVENGING.

The removal of domestic refuse and the contents of privies is dealt with under the supervision of the Borough Surveyor; privy contents are removed at night and are disposed of for agricultural purposes.

The contents of ashpits and ashbins are removed during the day and are disposed of on tips in outlying portions of the Borough. These tips are regularly inspected by myself for the purpose of detecting any nuisance arising therefrom or for any conditions which may be inimical to public health. The tipping proceeds in such a manner as permits of the rapid solidifying of the tipped material, street sweepings or other suitable material are placed on the surface and in a short time the levelled portions are grass covered, and as the tipping continues the grass covered portions gradually spread towards where the tipping is proceeding. This method of disposal has not resulted in any nuisance during my term of office, largely because the tips are remote from dwelling-houses or main roads or streets and because of the system which results in the speedy consolidation to the required level resulting in the exposure at one time of only a limited proportion of the tipped material.

Movable ashbins with proper coverings are being substituted for fixed receptacles in all those cases in which the receptacle is open or in disrepair. The number of houses at which ashbins have been substituted for fixed receptacles in the past 5 years have been as follows;— in 1921—294, in 1922—611, in 1923—753, in 1924—700 in 1925—600, making a total for the 5 years of 2,958.



## CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR'S RETURN OF VISITS, &c.

Dr. J. A. M. CLARK,  
Medical Officer of Health,  
WALSALL.

Dear Sir,

In accordance with the provisions of the Sanitary Officers' 1922, Order, I hereby furnish you with a tabular statement containing the following particulars for the year ended December 31st, 1925.

### 1. The Number and Nature of Inspections made by the Sanitary Inspectors.

	Bloxwich and Leamore Wards.	Hatherton and Paddock Wards.	Birchills and Pleck Wards.	Bridge and Caldmore Wards.	TOTALS
Inspections of Dwelling-houses—					
Housing Inspection... ..	75	63	181	57	376
District Inspections ... ..	1634	2381	1594	2321	7930
Inspections of Workshops (not in- cluding Bakehouses) ... ..	46	198	107	276	627
Inspections of Factories ... ..	11	60	10	42	123
„ Homes of Outworkers ... ..	6	19	18	31	74
„ Slaughter-houses ... ..	824	908	734	888	3354
„ Pig-killing on Private Premises ... ..	64	25	30	25	144
„ Bakehouses ... ..	38	46	125	105	314
„ Fried Fish Shops and Fish Yards ... ..	25	26	35	20	106
„ Dairies ... ..	199	181	176	221	777
„ Houses let in Lodgings Common Lodging- houses ... ..	—	116	—	201	317
„ Theatres and Music Halls ... ..	—	—	—	8	8
„ re Rat Destruction ... ..	5	—	4	10	19
„ Schools re drainage ( ... ..	75	137	52	70	334
and Sanitary conveniences ( ... ..	25	10	7	6	48
„ Markets ... ..	110	82	81	72	345
„ Smoke observations .. ..	—	1	—	1	2
Samples of water ... ..	2	—	—	—	2
„ under the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts for Analysis ... ..	55	55	59	59	228
Margarine, not submitted for Analysis ... ..	—	4	—	2	6
Pasteurised Milk for Bacteria Count ... ..	—	1	—	2	3
Milk tested for Tubercle Bacilli... ..	—	1	—	—	1
Canal Boat Inspections... ..	—	—	3	—	3
Visits to infected houses ... ..	746	737	538	334	2355
„ „ Butchers Shops re- Meat Regulations... ..	92	96	134	158	480
„ „ Butchers Shops re- Foot and Mouth Disease and Anthrax Orders ... ..	28	23	41	44	136
Carried Forward ... ..	4060	5170	3929	4953	18112

# 1 The Number and Nature of Inspections made by the Sanitary Inspectors—*continued.*

	Bloxwich and Leamore Wards.	Hatherton and Paddock Wards.	Birchills and Pleck Wards.	Bridge and Caldmore Wards.	TOTALS
Brought Forward	4060	5170	3929	4953	18112
Visits to Ice-cream Manufacturers and Vendors ...	47	60	56	70	233
„ „ Small-pox Contacts ...	—	—	332	—	332
„ „ Houses re- Ashpits ..	292	638	325	60	1315
Fumigations after notifiable disease ...	359	166	215	126	866
Drain tests, No. of houses ...	26	34	70	162	292
Re-inspections of work for abatement of Nuisances ...	2563	3087	2614	2094	10358
Total visits and Inspections ...	7347	9155	7541	7465	31508

## 2. The Number of Notices Served during the Year.

	Bloxwich and Leamore Wards.	Hatherton and Paddock Wards.	Birchills and Pleck Wards.	Bridge and Caldmore Wards.	TOTALS
Informal ...	522	502	551	507	2082
Statutory ...	223	114	190	141	668

## 3. Result of Services of such Notices.

	Bloxwich and Leamore Wards.	Hatherton and Paddock Wards.	Birchills and Pleck Wards.	Bridge and Caldmore Wards.	TOTALS
Number of nuisances abated ...	739	640	610	555	2544
× Notices not complied with ...	188	86	136	125	535

× The majority are informal notices.

Yours obediently,

ARTHUR T. HUBBLE,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

March 1st, 1926.

## SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Very little work for securing smoke abatement has been practicable owing to pressure of many other duties, particularly those connected with outbreaks of infectious disease. Much time too has been occupied in action for securing improvements in small house property. An apparatus for the recording of atmospheric impurities has been purchased by the Health Committee.

## PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS WHICH CAN BE CONTROLLED.

Cow Sheds	}	...	...	...	...	516
Dairies						
Milk Shops						
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	68
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	34
Fishfriers Shops	...	...	...	...	...	100
Butchers Shops	...	...	...	...	...	122
Ice-cream Makers and Vendors	...	...	...	...	...	233
Common Lodging Houses	...	...	...	...	...	11
Houses-let-in-Lodgings	...	...	...	...	...	10
Work Shops	...	...	...	...	...	345
Out-Workers Premises	...	...	...	...	...	47
						<hr/> 1,486 <hr/>

## OTHER SANITARY CONDITIONS REQUIRING NOTICE.

The more important matters which have received attention in the past five years have been those for securing sanitary improvements in the poorer class of houses, such as ensuring sufficient and sanitary water closets, ashbins, an improved water supply, and improved means for domestic washing by the provision of sinks and boilers fitted with a fire box, together with extensions of pipe drains for replacing defective surface channels receiving discharges from sinks, etc.



Mention has already been made of the fact that the unsewered portions of the Borough are receiving attention, and this work will proceed as soon as practicable. The large number of hand flushed water closets still calls for special effort, there being upwards of 9,000 of this type of water closet. Action at present is practically confined to those cases where there are more than one house to a water closet, and in all cases where the proportion of water closets to houses does not equal one water closet to two houses, action is taken under Section 36 requiring the provision of such additional water closets as will ensure there being at least one water closet to each two houses.

There are in the Borough some thousands of brick built ashpits; where these ashpits are furnished with proper doors and coverings they are regarded as "sufficient" within the meaning of Section 36. Receptacles of this type too frequently form a place of deposit for offensive matter in addition to ashes, and although hand bills are circulated requiring householders to destroy by burning as much of their refuse as practicable, it is a common experience to find when ashpits are being emptied that a great portion of the contents consist of organic matter such as vegetable refuse, fish and other bones, etc. Empty fish, meat or fruit tins, ashes, waste paper, cardboard, discarded clothing, and sometimes bedding, complete the contents, and as this Borough is not planned with back passages for the removal of refuse, etc., the contents of the ashpits are deposited on the surface of the public street prior to removal to the tip. This of course could be avoided if we had a universal ashbin system, and in the interests of public health ashpits should be dispensed with even though they may be looked upon as sufficient within the meaning of Section 36, and replaced with ashbins, the contents of which could be removed without the nuisance above alluded to. Old customs die hard, and although from time to time a circular letter has been addressed to house

occupiers in residential districts on the desirability of substituting ashbins for ashpits, the response has not been of a very gratifying nature.

## SCHOOLS.

During the past year the National Schools at Bloxwich have been redrained, and new water closets built dispensing with the foul privies and ashpits previously in use, and at two other schools ashbins have been substituted for ashpits. Action under the Rats and Mice Destruction Act has been necessary in several of the schools. Rat or Mice infestation in schools is very much encouraged by the scholars bringing food to the schools which not being consumed, acts as an attraction to these rodents.

## HOUSING.

1. **General Housing Conditions.**—In the past 40 or 50 years the houses built in this Borough have been through houses, houses of back to back or single type have not been allowed. In December, 1925 a special report on Housing and the General Standard of Sanitation, etc. in the Borough was presented to the Health Committee. Therein it was noted that during the past 25 years, over 650 houses unfit for human habitation had been closed and of these upwards of 500 had been demolished and the sites cleared. In this way many of the unwholesome courts had been cleared away and the environment of the houses remaining in the vicinity had been improved. The majority of the houses closed, but not demolished, have been taken into other buildings adjoining, such as factories or dwelling-houses.

Although some 450 back to back or single houses have been dealt with in the past, there are still 250 houses of the back to back type and 590 houses of the single type remaining in the Borough.

A considerable proportion of the oldest of the small houses in each ward of the Borough is becoming worn out, and these houses

are not amenable, owing to their site and structure, to further improvement. In fact it is undesirable to perpetuate the life of this type of house by adequate repairs and alterations, as closing orders will be asked for within the course of the next few years. Birchills, Hatherton and Bridge Wards contain the greater number of these houses which, all told, number approximately 500.

Although much has been done during the past few years there is still a considerable shortage of houses.

Remaining on the register of nuisances at the end of the year there were 49 notices relating to serious cases of overcrowding in dwelling-houses, some of these having been under notice for upwards of 2 years. In the past year overcrowding cases have been reported on, following complaints, but no special effort has been made (apart from complaints or information from the Health Visitors) to search out cases, largely because the shortage of houses prevents satisfactory measures being taken for remedying the nuisances. Apart from overcrowding there are hundreds of cases where a house intended for one family only, is occupied by 2 and in some cases 3 families who find it impossible to obtain a house for their own use. Building is proceeding more rapidly and 1,053 houses will be commenced during 1926, the two principal Housing Schemes being at Blakenall and Palfrey.

There has been no great change in the population beyond the natural growth by the number of births; no new industries have been commenced, but some of the existing works have been enlarged.

2. **Overcrowding.**—Among the causes one prime factor is the inability of many families to pay the amount of rent required for a Council House. Walsall is a town in which the majority of houses are at low rentals and prior to 1914 there was a sufficient number of houses for the needs of the working class population at rents not exceeding 5/- per week, including rates, with the result that many



of the older people are still occupying houses of that type, the rent of course being increased as permitted by the Increase of Rents and Mortgage Interest Acts and yet being in many cases several shillings below the charge for a Council House of the smallest type. It should however be noted that in a considerable number of the cases of overcrowding dealt with young people in regular employment could very well have contributed a small proportion to the increased rent charged for a Council House.

The measures contemplated for further dealing with overcrowding are the provision of more houses and the searching out of those cases not at present under notice where overcrowding exists or where 2 families occupy a house intended for 1 family only. Such occupation in many cases tends to change the conditions of a through house to one of back-to-back type, as the door between the front and back rooms is usually secured and never opened so that there is no through ventilation in the ground floor rooms.

The following are a few of the cases of overcrowding dealt with during 1925, and the action taken.

**Ref. 218, (23), BLOXWICH WARD.**—1 bedroom, 1,205 cubic feet, occupied by man, wife, and 5 children, 4 boys and 1 girl, ages ranging from 3 to 12 years; removed to a Council House.

**Ref. 522, (23), BLOXWICH WARD.**—A three roomed house, 2 families; a bedroom 955 cubic feet, occupied by man, wife, and three children, boys 1, 3, and 5 years, a smaller bedroom 785 cubic feet, man, wife, and 3 children, 2 boys and 1 girl, ages ranging from 6 months to 4 years, one family removed to a Council House, setting free one bedroom for the other family.

**Ref. 588, (23), LEAMORE WARD.**—2 roomed house, bedroom 927 cubic feet, man, wife, and 4 children, boys, ages from 7 months to 6 years, removed to a Council House.

**Ref. 178, (23), HATHERTON WARD.**—2 roomed house bedroom 1008 cubic feet, occupied by man, wife, and 5 children, 4 boys and 1 girl, ages ranging from 1 to 14 years, bed placed in living room for 2 oldest boys.

**Ref. 350, (23), HATHERTON WARD.**—5 roomed house, 2 bedrooms only in use, each 800 cubic feet, one occupied by man, wife, and 5 children, ages ranging from 9 months, to 13 years, the other man, wife, and 5 children, ages ranging from 6 months to 15 years, a disused room 1,500 cubic feet was repaired, and was taken over as a sleeping room by the second family, setting the 2 bedrooms free for the first family.

**Ref. 187, (23), PLECK WARD.**—5 roomed house, 2 families, front bedroom 1,225 cubic feet, man, wife, and 4 daughters, ages ranging from 3 to 18 years, middle bedroom 807 cubic feet, man, wife, and 2 children, 2 and 3 years, back bedroom 560 cubic feet, 3 sons 7, 21, and 23 years. The family occupying the middle bedroom removed to a Council House, setting free the middle bedroom for the other family.

**Ref. 47, (23), BIRCHILLS WARD.**—4 roomed house, 2 families, one bedroom 1,361 cubic feet, man, wife, and 5 children, ages from 5 months to 10 years, second bedroom 1,268 cubic feet, man, wife, and 5 children, 1 to 13 years, one family removed to a Council House, setting free the house for remaining family.

**Ref. 780, (a), (23), BIRCHILLS WARD.**—4 roomed house, front bedroom 1,288 cubic feet, occupied by man, wife, and 6 daughters, ages ranging from 5 to 20 years, nuisance abated, sleeping accommodation at a house in an adjoining street arranged for 3 daughters, aged 14, 17, and 20 years respectively.

**Ref. 363, (23), PLECK WARD.**—4 roomed house, one bedroom not overcrowded, second bedroom 841 cubic feet, occupied by man, 2 sons, 16 and 14 years, and 2 daughters 9 and 7 years. Family occupying the other bedroom left the town, setting free the bedroom for this family.

**Ref. 552, (23), BIRCHILLS WARD.**—5 roomed house, the ground floor front used as a retail shop, 3 families, the front bedroom 700 cubic feet, 2 married couples, one of whom had 4 children, ages ranging from 2 to 10 years, making 8 persons in the room; middle bedroom 630 cubic feet, 3 males aged 12, 13, and 23 years; back bedroom 686 cubic feet, married couple, 2 children, 7 months and 3 years. One family consisting of married couple and 5 children removed to a Council House, leaving 8 persons occupying the 3 bedrooms.

**Ref. 682, (23), PLECK WARD.**—4 roomed house, front bedroom 1,269 cubic feet married couple 2 daughters, 9 and 14 years, 2 sons, 3, and 6 years. A back bedroom 1,056 cubic feet, married couple, 3 daughters, 21, 13, and 9 years, 3 sons 19, 18, and 7 years; this family removed to a Council House.

3. (a). **Fitness of Houses.**—The general standard of housing may be classified as very fair. A large number of working class houses were erected in the years 1890, to 1910, and for the most part these houses are in a satisfactory state of repair, all being through houses, and having on the ground floor 2 living rooms, and a washhouse, or scullery, and on the first floor 2 or 3 rooms used as bedrooms. Each house is drained to the sewer and has its own water closet, ashpit, and water supply. The yards immediately adjoining the house are well paved and there is an open space varying in depth of from 20 to 60 feet at the rear in many cases used as a garden. The houses now being built for the working classes by the Council do not exceed more than twelve to the acre.



(b). In the report above referred to, it was noted that there were in the Borough 94 houses "in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation." These houses have been under notice for some years, but owing to the real shortage of houses which has existed no good purpose was to be served by having closing orders made. It was further stated that there were in addition 228 houses not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.

The general character of defects found to exist in unfit houses are mainly those associated with extreme age of the building, together with lack of efficient repairs at the proper time. These old houses are found to have dampness due to absence of damp proof course, defects in roofs, spoutings, or external brick work. The woodwork of doors, door frames, window frames, floors and stairs, is frequently to be found in a decaying state, the wall and ceiling plaster cracked, broken, and perished, the sanitary conveniences badly situated, devoid of light and ventilation, the yard surface either not paved or having defective paving.

(c). It becomes a rather difficult matter to state how far defects in these old houses are due to the lack of proper management and supervision by the owners, or to acts of waste or neglect by tenants. So far as the owners' side is concerned there are quite a number of houses belonging to old people who invested their meagre savings in small house property a quarter of a century or more ago. Some of these owners are old age pensioners and have practically no capital for meeting the charges for extensive repairs, while in other cases properties have been heavily mortgaged and have had to be taken over by the Mortgagee, who in turn does not wish to lay out further capital, and would probably prefer to see the houses closed.

There are other cases in which defects are seriously accentuated by neglect in dealing with defects, particularly of roofs or



spoutings, as they arise, and by neglect in painting of external woodwork and ironwork at reasonable intervals. Probably 75% of the house property in this Borough is managed by House Agents and not directly by the actual owners. Generally speaking we find that the agents are fully alive to the necessity of houses being maintained in a reasonable state of repair, and their supervision of the property has much to do with its sanitary state.

Defects owing to acts of waste or neglect by tenants arise in the following manner, namely:—damage to boundary walls or the roofs of outbuildings by children climbing on same and stone throwing, etc. for which they are not checked by their parents. Want of cleanliness in conveniences for common use, such as water closets, ashpits, drains, washhouses, the keeping of fowls or pigeons under unsuitable conditions, etc., are acts which also lead to deterioration of the property.

**General Action taken as regards Unfit Houses.**—In dealing with Unfit Houses in cases where the defects are numerous a list is sent to the owner asking his attention to their remedy, and where practicable an interview on the premises is arranged with the result that in about 60% of the cases the necessity for serving a notice under the Public Health Acts or the Housing Acts is avoided, the work being arranged for and carried out within an agreed period.

Where the defects principally are those causing dampness such as faulty roofs, spoutings, external brickwork, etc., and the matter is not remedied after an informal notice, notice is issued under the Public Health Acts.

No notices requiring repairs have been given under the Housing Acts during the year.

For securing improved management of property by owners very little has been done except where conveniences are for common use, suggestions that numbers shall be placed on the doors

corresponding to the numbers of the houses having the use of any particular convenience. This, where adopted, has resulted in an improvement.

So far as the better care of property by tenants is concerned the Sanitary Inspectors spend a considerable proportion of their time during District Inspection in advising tenants as to the use or misuse of houses and conveniences.

Where a considerable sum of money has to be spent for making houses in a reasonable state of repair, arrangements are made for the work to be spread over a period of sometimes as much as 12 months on the distinct understanding that the work is effected as agreed on, the first repairs being those which will as far as practicable secure freedom from dampness and for remedying unsafe or dangerous portions of the structures.

No special methods of dealing with back-to-back houses have been adopted, such houses are comparatively few in number and as they are among the older habitations now in use, and the majority in addition to being back-to-back, have other insanitary conditions which make it desirable that their occupation should cease, I would suggest that when time is opportune the houses should be closed and demolished.

In dealing with the water supply I have already stated that approximately 80 houses are dependent upon wells. Those houses drawing their water from a stand pipe in yard are becoming fewer, owners having in a number of old properties extended their water mains and provided a separate tap for each house.

The closet accommodation of many of the older houses has been considerably improved by the provision of flushing cisterns to the water closets and the provision of additional water closets so that there shall not be more than two houses to one convenience.

Reference has already been made to improvements effected by the substitution of ash and refuse bins for brick built ashpits (page 32). Particulars of notices served are included in the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector (pages 108, 109, 110).

**Unhealthy Areas.**—As previously mentioned considerable work has been done in former years <sup>in</sup> ~~for~~ searching out and closing unfit houses and those situated in congested courts.

Some years ago the question of dealing with an area in the Bridge Ward as an unhealthy one, was under consideration, and on going into the matter with officials from the Housing Commissioner they advised that in the circumstances and considering what had been done in previous years it was not advisable at that time to proceed with an improvement scheme, it being probable that a number of the houses would be acquired in connection with factory extensions and the remainder could be improved by repairs.

5. **Bye Laws relating to Houses-let-in-Lodgings.**—The existing Bye Laws for houses-let-in-lodgings appear to be sufficient for securing their sanitary regulation. This type of home (furnished combined room) is perhaps the lowest in scale in comparison with other homes of the poorer classes.

6. **General and Miscellaneous.**—Very little work of general nature outside the routine duties has been practicable owing largely to the continuance of Diphtheria. The absence of efficient hospital accommodation has thrown a great strain upon the staff of the Health Department, making it impossible to attempt educational work in sanitary matters except so far as is done in dealing with individual cases actually being dealt with. A handbill was circulated and in many instances was pasted on to ashbins pointing out the desirability of householders burning as much refuse as possible. This advice together with the extended use of ashbins in place of ashpits has resulted in householders destroying much combustible refuse by burning which previously found its way into the ashpit, in the aggregate considerably reducing the quantity for removal.



## HOUSING.

**Number of New Houses Erected during the Year.—**

(a) Total	...	...	...	...	...	426
(b) With State Assistance under the Housing Acts, 1919, 1923 and 1924.						
(1) By the Local Authority	...	...	...	...	...	287
(ii) By other bodies or persons	...	...	...	...	...	118
<b>Total erected to date under the National Housing Scheme</b>	...	...	...	...	...	<b>635</b>

## 1. UNFIT DWELLING HOUSES.

**(1)—Inspection.**

(1) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	...	8,306
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910	...	...	...	...	...	376
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	97
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	779

**(II) Remedy of defects without Service of Formal Notices.**

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	...	...	...	...	...	523
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

**(III) Action under Statutory Powers.**

(A) Proceedings under section 28 of the Housing Town Planning, &c., Act, 1919.						
--	--	--	--	--	--	--

- |     |   |     |     |      |
|-----|---|-----|-----|------|
| (1) | Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs   | ... | ... | Nil. |
| (2) | Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit—  |     |     |      |
|     | (a) by Owners   | ... | ... | Nil. |
|     | (b) by Local Authority in default of owners   | ... |     | Nil. |
| (3) | Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close .. |     |     | Nil. |

(B) Proceedings under Public Health Acts—

- |     |  |     |      |
|-----|--|-----|------|
| (1) | Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied |     | 270  |
| (2) | Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied—  |     |      |
|     | (a) by Owners  | ... | 216  |
|     | (b) by Local Authority in default of Owners  | ... | Nil. |

(C) Proceedings under sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c. Act, 1909—

- |     |   |     |     |      |
|-----|---|-----|-----|------|
| (1) | Number of representatives <sup>and</sup> made with a view to the making of closing orders                               | ... | ... | 3    |
| (2) | Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made  | ... | ... | 3    |
| (3) | Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined the dwelling houses have been rendered fit | ... | ... | Nil. |
| (4) | Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made   | ... | ... | Nil. |
| (5) | Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders  | ... | ... | Nil. |

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

### SECTION 5, MILK AND DAIRIES (CONSOLIDATION) ACT, 1915

Two samples of milk have been tested for Tubercle Bacilli. In each case the report stated: "Tubercle Bacilli have not been found in the milk."

### MILK AND DAIRIES (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1922.

Section 2 (1). It has not been necessary to refuse registration to any person, the procedure being, where an application for registration of premises for retailing milk is received, an inspection is made and unless the premises proposed to be used are made to comply with the Regulations, the applicant is informed that registration will not be effected until the requirements are complied with.

There has been a distinct improvement in the conditions under which milk is retailed since the coming into force of the Act of 1922.

**Action under Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Orders.**—Each of the premises in the occupation of a registered person under this Order is visited at least twice a year each cowkeeper is notified by p.c. as to the regulation requiring linewashing during May and October.

### THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDER, 1923.

The only milk sold in the Borough under this Order is "Pasteurised" Milk.

One Pasteuriser's Licence has been granted.

Three samples have been submitted for bacterial examination, and in the 1st sample the number of organisms per cubic centimetre was considerably more than the maximum number mentioned in the Order. The attention of the Pasteurisers was called to the report, and in reply they stated: "We are quite at a loss to account for the bacteria count turning out so badly."

Two further samples showed respectively 378 and 5,700 organisms per cubic centimetre.



## PUBLIC HEALTH (MEAT) REGULATIONS, 1924.

These Regulations came into force on April 1st, 1925, and it was decided that all notices of slaughter or disease should be sent to the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Prior to that date the Chairman of the Health Committee, the Medical Officer of Health and the Chief Sanitary Inspector addressed two largely attended meetings of the Butchers and their staffs. The regulations were gone over very carefully and fully explained, and although all the powers which we might wish for have not been obtained, we have no hesitation in saying that the Butchers in the main have done their best to carry out the spirit of the regulations. There is yet however room for improvement in the proper handling of meat as of other food stuffs.

The Chief Sanitary Inspector reports that he received during the 9 months ended December 31st, 1925, the following notices:—

41 for slaughter at "fixed times on fixed days," 1,660 for "3 hours notice" and 33 for "emergency" slaughter under Article 8, 44 notices of disease under Article 9 were also received during the same period.

415 of the three hours or emergency notices related to slaughter of pigs by private householders. In 12 cases the pigs were taken to adjacent slaughterhouses and dressed there, and in 403 cases slaughter took place in premises not licensed or registered for that purpose.

In 39 cases notice was given under the Bye-law for slaughter after 9 p.m. and 70 notices was also given for slaughter on a Sunday.

In 11 cases the notice for fixed times on fixed days was cancelled, the butcher giving a new notice varying the hours of slaughter.

It has not been possible to inspect during or after slaughter in more than 50% of the notices given. Those slaughterhouses where a considerable number of carcasses are dressed have had fairly regular supervision. At Messrs. Lord's Slaughterhouse, Shortacre

Street, an Inspector has been in attendance each day when slaughtering was proceeding.

The number of carcasses examined during the 9 months has been 19,354, viz.:—2,687 cattle, 1,616 calves, 5,248 swine, and 9,803 sheep. (Carcasses or parts thereof condemned) See Table VI, pages, 113, 114.

The notices for disease were comparatively few (44), this is somewhat accounted for by the fact that in many cases an Inspector was present at the time diseased organs were exposed during slaughtering operations.

There are no public slaughterhouses in the Borough, the number of slaughterhouses as will be seen in the following table has remained unchanged throughout the year

		In 1920.	Jan. 1925.	Dec. 1925.
Registered	...	15	14	14
Licensed	...	20	20	20
Total		35	34	34

### SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS.

Report prepared by the Chief Sanitary Inspector showing number and result of Analysis of Samples and proceedings taken during the year ended December 31st, 1925, viz ;—

Description of Article Analysed				Total number of samples	Number certified as genuine	Number certified as adulterated
Milk	...	...	...	102	92	10
„ Machine-skimmed			..	1	1	—
Cream	...	...	...	7	7	—
Lard	...	...	...	12	12	—
Butter	...	...	...	32	32	—
Margarine guaranteed to contain 10% butter fat...				2	2	—
Margarine	...	...	...	3	3	—

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS,—*continued.*

Cheese	...	...	...	15	15	—
„ Cheddar	...	...	...	1	1	—
„ Cheshire	...	...	...	1	1	—
Coffee	...	...	...	7	7	—
Cocoa	...	...	...	6	6	—
Mustard	...	...	...	2	2	—
Sausage	...	...	...	1	1	—
„ Luncheon	...	...	...	1	1	—
Pepper	...	...	...	7	7	—
Vinegar	...	...	...	1	1	—
Milk “Condensed Full Cream”	...	...	...	4	4	—
„ “Condensed Machine Skimmed”	...	...	...	10	10	—
„ “Dried Full Cream”	...	...	...	1	1	—
Whisky	...	...	...	4	4	—
Rum	...	...	...	3	3	—
Gin	...	...	...	4	4	—
Aerated Water	...	...	...	1	1	—
TOTAL			...	228	218	10
Number of Formal Samples			...	..	...	104
Number of Informal Samples			...	...	...	124
						228

Six purchases of Margarine were made. In five cases the requirements of the Acts as regards labelling and the use of a marked wrapper were complied with, in the other case a proper Margarine wrapper was not used, the vendor was cautioned by letter.



## ADULTERATED SAMPLES—ACTION TAKEN.

Milk was the only article certified as not genuine. Of 102 samples 10 were deficient in Cream and two of these milks also contained added water.

Administrative action in these samples was, viz :—

No. of Sample	Analyst's Report.	Action Taken.
Milk No. 41 ...	10% Deficient in Cream ...	Health Committee considered Vendor's explanation and a severe caution was given by letter.
Milk No. 45 ...	26.6%        "        "        ...	Ditto
Milk No. 48 ...	11.6%        "        "        ...	Ditto
Milk No. 51* ...	8.33%        "        "        and contained 11.17% of added water	Summons dismissed on payment of costs, 5/-
Milk No. 52* ...	8.33% Deficient in Cream and contained 11.76% of added water	Ditto
Milk No. 55* ...	1.66% Deficient in Cream ...	Further Sample taken. See No. 79
Milk No. 58 ...	6.66%        "        "        ...	Health Committee considered Vendor's explanation and a severe caution was given by letter.
Milk No. 79* ...	10.0 %        "        "        ...	Summons Dismissed.
Milk No. 102 ...	10.0 %        "        "        ...	Sterilized Milk. Enquiries made at Factory (June) and Wholesaler advised 7 further samples obtained from same supply before the end of the year were very satisfactory.
Milk No. 154 ...	1.66%        "        "        ...	Sterilized Milk. The wholesaler was advised to test the milk as received from the Farm.

## MILK.

SAMPLES 41, 51, 52, 55, 79.

In my report of 1924, I commented on five samples of milk supplied from a farm outside the Borough and which contained added water varying from 1·1% to 8·82%. This supply was kept under special observation in the early months of 1925, and samples mentioned above Nos. 41, 51 and 52, were from the Walsall purveyor, while samples No. 55 and 79 were from the farmer, who, in April, was retailing milk in this Borough. The purveyor held no warranty in respect to the milk received from the farmer.

The summonses relating to samples numbered 51, 52 and 79 were heard on the same morning and the whole of the circumstances of the case was placed before the Justices.

A sample taken from the farmer since the prosecution has been satisfactory.

## MILK SAMPLES IN 1925.

25 of the samples were Sterilized Milk, two of these Nos. 102 and 154 were deficient in cream.

2 of the milk samples Nos. 171 and 172, were obtained in course of delivery, under Section 8 (3) of the Milk and Dairies (Consolidation) Act, 1915) on the request of the Inspector for the County of Stafford, (samples previously taken by him at Wednesbury from a Purveyor of Milk contained added water). The Inspector informed me at a later date that the samples Nos. 171, 172 were certified genuine.

## ÆRATED WATER.

SAMPLE NO. 150.

A bottle of ærated water was brought to the office by a woman who said that on opening the bottle she noticed a smell as of carbolic acid.

The Public Analyst reported "This sample smelt strongly of carbolic acid but I failed to detect analytically the presence of carbolic acid."

The Manufacturers attention was drawn to the remarks of the Analyst, and in reply they stated "We must inform you that we do not use carbolic acid on our premises for any purpose what so ever. Unfortunately, as no doubt you are aware, the Public are in the habit of using Mineral Water bottles for the conveyance of all sorts of acids and poisons, and although under our process of cleaning, all foreign matter can be cleansed off the bottle and stopper, sometimes the odour is retained in the rubber ring of the stopper. We can assure you that every precaution is taken by us to ensure thorough cleanliness and we always destroy bottles and stoppers if we find that they cannot be thoroughly cleansed."

Pursuant to the recommendation of the Health Committee the Chief Constable issued a warning notice under the Poisons and Pharmacy Act, 1908.

**Milk.**—15 samples were submitted for analysis under the Public Health (condensed milk) Regulations, 1923, and the Public Health (dried milk) Regulations, 1923, all the samples were genuine and the statements on the cartons or tins were correct.

## MILK AND CREAM REGULATIONS, 1912 and 1917.

Report for the year ended 31st December, 1925.

### 1. Milk and cream not sold as preserved cream.

	Number of Samples examined for the presence of a Preserv- ative.	Number in which Preservatives was reported to be present, and percentage of Preservative found in each Sample.
Milk	101	Nil.
„ Condensed (full cream)	4	Nil.
Condensed Separated Milk	10	Nil.
Cream	7	Nil.

### 2. Cream sold as preserved cream.

- (a) Instances in which samples have been submitted for analysis to ascertain if the statements on the label as



to Preservatives were correct:—

(i) Correct statements made	...	...	—
(ii) Statements incorrect	...	...	—
			-----
			Total —
			-----

(iii) Percentage of Preservative found in each sample.	Percentage stated on Statutory label.
Nil.	Nil.

(b) Determinations made of milk fat in cream sold as preserved cream:—

(i) Above 35%	...	...	...	—
(ii) Below 35%	...	...	...	—
				-----
				Total —
				-----

(c) Instances where (apart from analysis) the requirements as to labelling or declaration of preserved cream in article V. (1) and the proviso in article V. (2) of the Regulations have not been observed ... Nil.

(d) Particulars of each case in which the Regulations have not been complied with, and action taken ... Nil.

3. Thickening substances. Any evidence of their addition to cream or preserved cream ... Nil.

4. Colouring matter in, or reconstituted milk on sale ... Nil.

Report on the administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901  
in connection with

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, WORKPLACES & HOMEWORK.

1—INSPECTION.

MADE BY SANITARY INSPECTORS.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections	Written Notices	Prosecutions
Factories ... .. (including Factory Laundries)	123	24	Nil.
Workshops (including Work- shop Laundries) ... ..	941	79	
Total	1,064	103	—

2—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.			No. of Pro- secutions
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts.—				
Want of Cleanliness ... ..	79	75	—	—
" " Ventilation ... ..	—	—	—	—
Other nuisances ... ..	14	14	—	—
Sanitary accommodation {	insufficient ... ..	10	10	—
	unsuitable or defective	25	—	—
	not separate for sexes	5	—	—

Including those specified in sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Workshop Act as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

### 3—HOMEWORK.

NATURE OF WORK.	OUTWORKERS' LISTS, SECTION 107.						Outwork in Un-wholesome premises Section 108.			Outwork in Infected Premises, Sections 109, 110		
	Lists received from Employers.			Notices served on Occupiers as to sending lists.	Prosecu- tions.		Instances.	Notices served.	Prosecutions.	Instances.	Orders made, S, 110	Prosecutions (Sections 109, 110).
	Lists.	Outworkers.			Failing to keep or permit inspection of lists.	Failing to send lists.						
		Contractors.	Workmen.									
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Wearing Apparel— Making, &c. ...	22	4	48	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...
Cables and chains ...	4	...	12	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...
Cart gear including buckles	4	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Brush making ...	2	...	4	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...
Total ...	32	4	68	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...

### 4—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops on the Register (s 131) at the end of the year		Number
1		2
Important classes of workshops, such as workshop-bakehouses may be enumerated here.	Bakehouses (includes 28 Factory Bakehouses) ...	68
	Others ...	345
	Total number of workshops on Register ...	413

### 5—OTHER MATTERS.

Class	Number
1	2
Matters notified to H.M Inspector of Factories:—	
Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Act (s. 133 1901) —	
Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspector as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory and Workshop Act (s. 5 1901):—	
Notified by H.M Inspector —	31
Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspector	21
Other — — —	...
Underground Bakehouses (s. 101):—	
In use at the end of the year —	...





## MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

During the year there were 2,257 births (2,190 legitimate and 67 illegitimate). There were 253 deaths of infants under one year, of whom 7 were illegitimate.

The Mortality Rate of legitimate births was 115·52 per 1,000 births, whilst that of illegitimate births was 104·47, giving a total Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 births of 115·19 as compared with a rate of 78·09 for 1924.

This is the highest Infantile Mortality Rate in any year since 1915, and is in striking contrast to the low Mortality Rate experienced in the previous year.

The increase has been due to the presence of Epidemics of Measles and Whooping Cough together with their concomitants Bronchitis and Pneumonia during the greater part of the year. 23 children under the age of one year having died from Whooping Cough, and 11 from Measles.

Bronchitis and Pneumonia together accounted for 59 deaths or 22·7% of the total.

33 deaths were due to Diarrhoea as compared with 13 in 1924.

Each quarter of the year has shown a high Infantile Mortality, the second quarter being lowest with an Infantile Mortality of 91 and the third quarter being highest with an Infantile Mortality rate of 146.

Prematurity accounted for 42 deaths, or 16·2% of the total infantile deaths as against 57 or 30·9% in 1924.

Congenital defects and deaths arising from congenital debility and wasting accounted for 46 deaths or 17·6% of the total.

The Maternal Mortality for the past year has again been high, 14 mothers having died from Puerperal Sepsis or from other Accidents or Diseases connected with child birth, the death rate amounting to 6·2% per 1,000 births as against 5·9% in 1924 and 1·7% in 1923.

This year again Caldmore has the lowest Infantile Mortality with 71·67% per 1,000 births, Bloxwich coming next with 99·99%, Birchills being at the other end of the scale with an Infantile Mortality of 164·16%.

Whilst 46 babies died under the age of one week, 86 died within the first month, or 33% as compared with 59 babies within one week and 103 or 55·9% within the first month in 1924.

This welcome decline in the neo-natal mortality is the only gratifying feature of the Infantile Mortality Statistics for 1925.

### NURSING SERVICES.

The co-ordinated Nursing Scheme has worked well during the year and a very gratifying increase in the work of the Health Visitors has to be recorded. 17,079 visits having been paid to homes during 1925 in connection with this branch of the work only, as against 9,066 in 1924.

Owing to the rapid growth of the Medical Services of the town it became evident early in 1925 that additional Nursing Staff was required, and accordingly an extra Health Visitor was appointed and commenced duties in July.

### INFANT WELFARE CENTRES.

On April 3rd a new Welfare Centre was opened in Field Road, Bloxwich, this catering for the needs of a large area in the Bloxwich and Leamore Wards which had hitherto not been within easy reach of a Welfare Centre. Although a certain number of children have been diverted from Stafford Street Centre to the new Centre at Bloxwich, there has not been the anticipated decline in the number of attendances at the Stafford Street Centre.

All round there has been an increase in the number of new cases attending the Centres, and in the number of attendances, 1,533 new babies having been registered at the four Centres, and 14,850 attendances being made as compared with 1,443 new babies and 12,056 attendances during 1924. There has also been an increase in the number of expectant mothers who have come to the Centre.

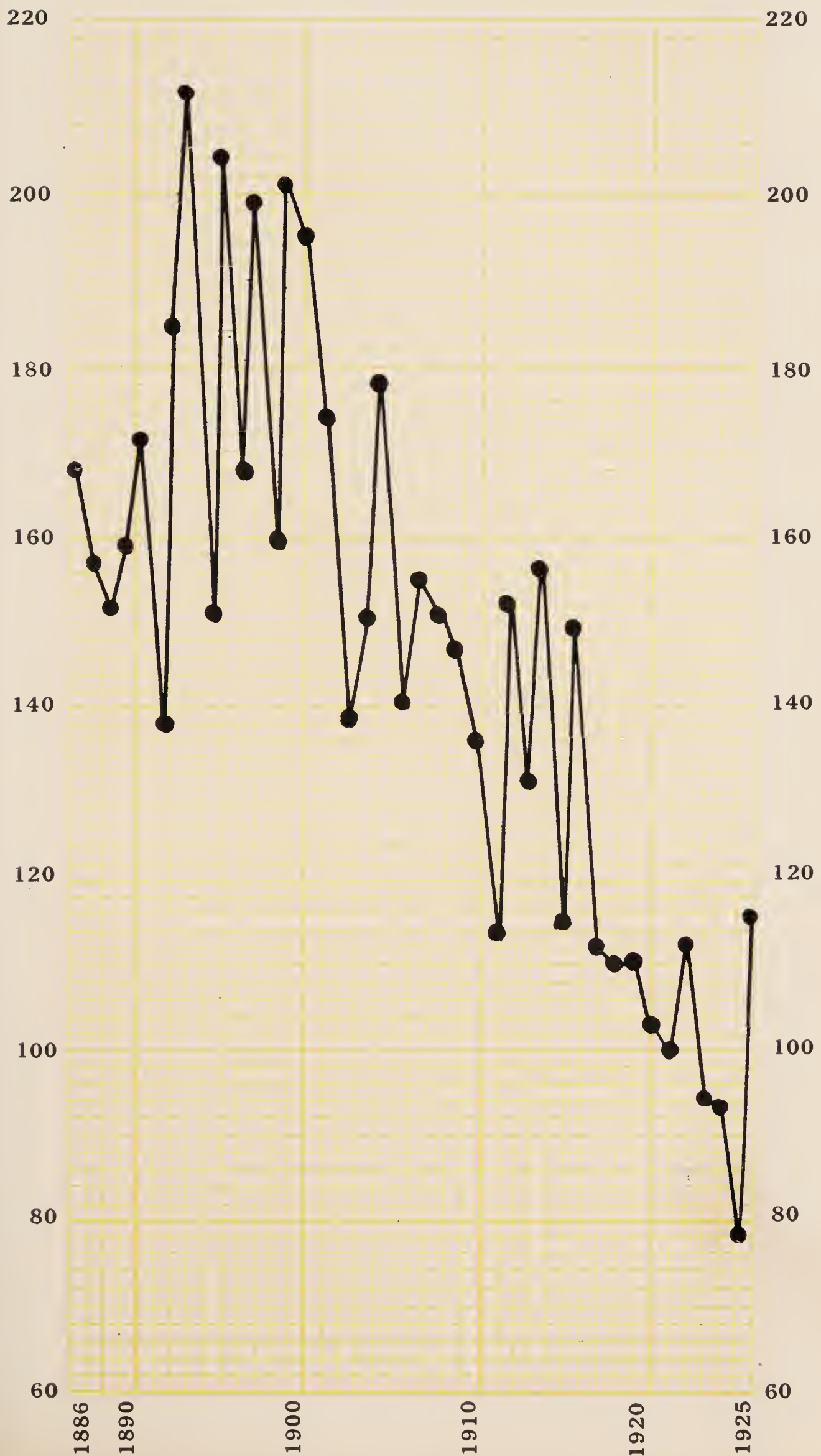


COUNTY BOROUGH OF WALSALL.

# INFANT MORTALITY.

INFANT DEATHS (under 1 year) PER 1,000 BIRTHS.

1886—1925





Owing to the large amount of other Clinical Work which has had to be done during the week, it has been found impossible for any member of the Medical Staff to attend the Ante-natal Centre which has been conducted throughout the year by Mrs Saunders, Superintendent Health Visitor.

It is however, most desirable that arrangements should be made at an early date for the regular attendance of an Obstetrical Expert at this Centre.

Details of the work of the Centre as well as the work of the Health Visitors are given in the following Tables:—

### ATTENDANCES REGISTERED AT INFANT WELFARE CENTRES.

Centre	Under 6 months		6-12 months		1-2 years		2-5 years		Total		New Cases
	*A.	*M.	A.	M.	A.	M.	A.	M.	A.	M.	
Ablewell Street...	1313	456	965	222	604	142	769	105	3651	925	858
Field Road ...	911	381	679	260	462	201	669	184	2721	1026	235
Milton Street ...	1588	509	1134	293	869	234	918	167	4509	1203	214
Stafford Street ...	1458	602	1066	297	679	207	766	135	3969	1241	226
Total ...	5270	1948	3844	1072	2614	784	3122	591	14850	4395	1533

\*A—Number of Attendances.

\*M—Number Medically Examined.

The total number of Ante-Natal cases registered at the Centres numbered 515, out of which 41 were medically examined.

### THE WORK OF THE HEALTH VISITORS.

#### FIRST AND RE-VISITS.

Half-days spent at Welfare Centres	Birth Enquiries First Visits	Re-Visits to Infants under 12 months	Visits to Children 1-5 years	Ante-Natal First Visits	Ante-Natal Re-Visits	Ophthalmia First Visits	Ophthalmia Re-Visits	Other Visits (Infectious Diseases, &c.)	Total Visits
738	2011	6258	7809	234	186	33	88	460	17079



INFANT FEEDING.—When first visited 1,706 infants were entirely breast fed, 193 breast and artificially fed and 102 artificially fed.

Details of the food supplied are given as follows :—

#### FIRST VISIT—

Cows Milk was being given to 169 babies				
Dried	„	„	41	„
Condensed Milk	„	„	29	„
Patent Foods and Rusks	„		66	„

#### WHILST ON RE-VISIT—

Cows Milk was being given to 591 babies				
Dried	„	„	74	„
Condensed Milk	„	„	11	„
Patent Foods and Rusks	„		170	„

On the first re-visits 1,107 were reported to be entirely breast fed.

33 infants died before being re-visited, and 19 had left the Borough.

There is no doubt that the tendency to discontinue breast feeding from the least possible cause is growing, and too often one finds that the first visit to the Centre happens after baby has been weaned and because bottle feeding has not proved so satisfactory as was anticipated.

Advice is then sought to correct errors of dietary at too late a date to re-establish breast feeding.

Amongst young mothers particularly do we find this tendency well marked.

The most common reasons given for the discontinuance of breast feeding are either that the milk “went” when the mother got up after her confinement, or that the Breast Milk “did not suit.” It may be stated with confidence that lack of ante-natal care and supervision accounts for the failure of the breast supply

in the great majority of cases. Common causes of the "Milk not suiting." or the alleged indigestion are these:—

(1) Overhandling of the new infant—all the child's relatives and neighbours desire to handle baby and to rock him. Babies are sensitive creatures and they can only express their displeasure by crying. The result of too much adoration of this sort produces a mild form of indigestion and consequent pain.

(2) Irregular or too frequent or too rapid feeding is a potent source of breast milk not suiting. The result is flatulence and pain.

(3) Wrong clothing—the binder is kept too tight or baby is kept too hot by overclothing.

(4) Too frequent doses of unnecessary laxatives, causing griping pains.

These are but a few of the causes which may account for baby's indigestion, but if a baby is fretful or cries much, no matter the cause, the Breast Milk is invariably blamed.

### MEDICAL AID AND PROVISION OF MILK.

The Guild of Help continues with the approval of the Ministry of Health to do much of the investigation work required by the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee.

All cases of midwifery where a Medical Practitioner is called in by the Midwife in attendance are investigated by the Guild and a report is submitted to the Medical Officer of Health. 303 such reports were received by the latter during the year.

All applications for free milk are also dealt with by the Guild. Suitable cases are recommended by the Medical Officers at the Welfare Centres, or by the Midwife or Doctor in attendance where Mothers are unable to attend the Centres. Reports are then made on these cases by the Secretary of the Guild who attends the weekly meetings of the Milk Sub-Committee and all recommendations are dealt with by this Committee.

510 applications were dealt with during the year and 4,541 reports were made on those cases to the Milk Sub-Committee.

## SANITARY DEFECTS.

13 cases were referred to the Sanitary Inspectors.

## MIDWIVES ACT.

During 1925, one midwife was reported to the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee for breaches of the rules.

## MIDWIVES' INSPECTIONS, ETC.

Total.

No. of Midwives on register—Trained	24	}	33
Untrained	9		
No. of visits to midwives—Inspections	132	}	442
Interviews	310		
Puerperal Fever notified			8
8 cases were removed to Hospital.			
3 cases proved fatal.			
5 „ recovered.			
Midwives disinfected			2
Ophthalmia notified—by Midwives	Nil.	}	32
by Doctors	32		
Cases treated at home	26	}	32
„ „ „ hospital	6		

## MIDWIVES' NOTIFICATIONS, (Medical Help).

Medical Help.	Stillbirth.	Ophthalmia.	Death of Child.	Intention to Practice.	Liability to be a source of Infection.	Proposed Artificial Feeding.	Change of Address.
319	27	—	2	23	5	11	3

CONDITIONS FOR WHICH DOCTORS WERE CALLED  
IN BY MIDWIVES—  
PREGNANCY.

Abortion and Miscarriage	...	...	...	...	14
Ante-Partum Hæmorrhage	...	...	...	...	5
Threatened Miscarriage or Abortion	...	...	...	...	7
Purulent Discharge	...	...	...	...	5
Dangerous Varicose Veins	..	...	...	...	5
Toxæmias (Unclassified)	...	...	...	...	8



## LABOUR.

Ante, and Post-Partum Hæmorrhage	..	13
Ruptured Perinæum ... ..	..	31
Prolonged and Difficult Labour	... ..	69
Purulent Discharge	... ..	6
Malpresentation	... ..	29
Retained Placenta and Membranes	..	14
		<hr/> 162 <hr/>

## PUERPERIUM.

Rise of Temperature ... ..	..	19
Secondary Post-Partum Hæmorrhage	... ..	5
Mastitis	... ..	3
Unclassified (Indefinite Diagnosis)	... ..	9
		<hr/> 36 <hr/>

## INFANT.

Inflammation of Eyes ... ..	..	27
Dangerous Feebleness and Prematurity	... ..	24
Malformation and Congenital Defects	... ..	7
Death of the Child	... ..	2
Serious Skin Eruption	... ..	5
Unclassified (Indefinite Diagnosis)	... ..	12
		<hr/> 77 <hr/>

NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS YEAR ENDING  
DECEMBER 31st, 1925.

No. of births notified during the year		2,198
by Medical Practitioners	448	
„ Midwives	1,794	
„ Parents	9	
Born in Union Infirmary	... ..	44
Unnotified births	... ..	6
Stillbirths notified during the year	... ..	97
„ Attended by Medical Practitioners	36	
„ „ „ Midwives	61	

**Notified births (excluding Stillbirths), deaths under 1 year and rate,  
Year ending December 31st, 1925.**

	Bloxwich		Lea- more		Birch- ills		Hath- erton		Pad- dock		Bridge		Pleck		Cald- more		Work house		Total.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Births	109	100	140	177	204	192	116	112	107	107	90	94	178	161	160	133	10	8	1114	1084
Deaths under 1 year	19		33		65		35		26		25		36		21		—		260	
Mortality rate per 1000 births	99.99		104.10		164.16		153.50		121.49		135.85		106.19		71.67		—		118.28	

**MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE MILK  
SUB-COMMITTEE.  
FRESH MILK.**

During the year approximately 336 cases received a supply of milk free at a cost of £589 17s. 1d.

**DRIED MILK.**

103 cases received Dried Milk at cost price. Paid to Borough Treasurer for same £444 9s. 6d

281 Bottles of Cod Liver Oil Emulsion were sold at cost price. Paid to Borough Treasurer for same £14 1 0.

31 tins of Lactogol were sold at cost price. Paid to Borough Treasurer for same £1 18 9.

386 lbs. of Dried Milk was given free at a cost of £30 7s. 0d.

1,231  $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. tins of Virol were sold at cost price. Paid to Borough Treasurer for same £61 11s. 0d.

## MENTAL DEFICIENCY.

The Local Statutory Committee has delegated certain of its duties under the Mental Deficiency Act 1913 to the Voluntary Association for Mental Welfare.

This Association was formed with the following objects:—

1. To assist the Local Authority in administering the Act by the visitation, ascertainment and supervision of defectives.
2. To supervise mental defectives who are not subject to be dealt with under the Act.
3. To train and educate mental defectives in their own homes or at the Occupation Centre.
4. To provide an information bureau for those interested in mental welfare generally.

The Medical Officer of Health is certifying Officer under the Mental Deficiency Act, and he has the assistance, in carrying out his duties, of the staff of the Civic Guild of Help consisting of one whole time Voluntary Visitor, the Secretary and one part time paid Visitor.

There are two groups of cases to be dealt with:—

(a.) **Statutory Cases.**—consisting of mental defectives under 7 or over 16 years known to require special care and supervision; uneducable mentally defective children between the ages of 7 and 16, and children referred to the Local Control Authority under the Mental Deficiency Act as being either incapable of further education in a special school, or of being capable of such education without detriment to other children. These are dealt with under the Mental Deficiency Act.

(b.) **Education Cases.**—consisting of mentally defective children between the age of 7 and 16 capable of education in special schools. These are dealt with by the Local Education Authority.



The number of mentally defective persons in the borough ascertained by medical examination up to the present is 120. This however is by no means a true record, as records prior to 1922 are non-existent. Further, no account is taken of cases who are in poor law institutions and who have not been certified, the Poor Law Infirmary not being a certified institution. The work of ascertainment is still proceeding.

The **Statutory Cases** are distributed as follows:—

In Certified Institutions	...	...	13	
In Mental Hospitals	...	...	5	
In a place of Safety	...	...	14	
Under Supervision at home	...	...	22	
			<hr/>	54

And the **Education Cases**:

In Certified Resident Schools	...	...	11	
At Elementary Schools	...	...	30	
At other Institutions	...	...	11	
At Home	...	...	14	
			<hr/>	66

In addition there are 98 cases under Voluntary Supervision by the Voluntary Association for mental welfare.

During the year 447 visits were paid to homes by the Mental Deficiency Visitors.

26 cases were notified to the Voluntary Association during the year and these were dealt with as follows:—

Certified and sent to Institutions	...	...	3	
Under Statutory Supervision, awaiting				
Institutional Treatment	...	...	3	
Removed to Workhouse	...	...	2	
To Occupation Centre	...	...	4	
Under Statutory Supervision	...	...	1	
„ Voluntary „	...	...	12	
Removed out of area	...	...	1	
			<hr/>	26

**Occupation Centre.**—Under the auspices of the Civic Guild of Help, the Voluntary Association for Mental Welfare opened an Occupation Centre at the School Clinic, Bradford Street, on April 1st, 1924. Sixteen pupils, all girls, were enrolled to start with, and later on boys were also admitted. The Centre has been open on three afternoons per week. On other two afternoons instruction is given by the Supervisor to children in their own homes,

The time table includes instruction in Raffia work, rug making, plasticene modelling, sewing, drill, singing, recitation, eurythmics. More recently, crayon drawing has been introduced with some measure of success.

The work of the Occupation Centre has been particularly successful, considerable improvement not only in the mental and physical condition of the pupils attending being noted, but also in the quality of the handwork.

The Medical Officer of Health is responsible for the medical inspection of the pupils.

Owing to the difficulty of securing suitable accommodation at Bloxwich, it has not yet been found possible to extend the work to the northern end of the Borough, where it is very desirable that a branch Occupation Centre should be opened.

#### LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND OTHER OFFICERS' SUPERANNUATION FUND.

Under this Act all employees have to pass a medical examination before being taken on the permanent staff.

The Medical Officer of Health acts as Medical Referee for the Corporation.

During the year 31 persons were examined prior to their appointment, 27 were passed as satisfactory lives, 4 persons failing to come up to the standard laid down by the Finance Committee.

#### OTHER MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS.

18 employees were examined on behalf of the Tramways Committee as to their fitness to act as Tram or 'Bus Drivers.

In addition all candidates for the Police Force are examined by the Medical Officer of Health, whose services were also requisitioned by the Police on many other occasions.

## CARE OF THE BLIND.

There are 107 blind persons on the register of the Blind for the County Borough of Walsall, the details as to numbers and classification being set out in Tables A. and B. Of that number 14 are school children under the age of 16, all of whom are in special schools. 33 persons are unemployable, of the others, 28 are employed in various occupations, (Table C) and two are under training.

Certain of the arrangements for looking after the interests of the blind persons are carried out by the Blind Persons Welfare Committee, or on their behalf by the Walsall, Wednesbury and District Society for the Blind, and the Birmingham Royal Institution for the Blind.

13 of our Walsall Blind are employed in the local workshops. These workshops are by no means satisfactory, and there is much room for improvement. The question of provision of new workshops has had careful consideration but is held up owing to financial stringency.

Home workers are dealt with by the Birmingham Royal Institution for the Blind. During 1925 there was one Home Teacher who looked after the home workers in both the Walsall and Wednesbury areas. There are in addition two Visitors, one woman, a sighted person, and the other a blind person, male.

## UNEMPLOYABLE BLIND.

The Town Council have now augmented the income of each of the 33 unemployable persons in the Borough who are of full age, to 16/- per week, and the Home Visitors have been instructed when distributing this grant to enquire if they are as reasonably comfortable as possible, and if conditions are unsatisfactory to report the same to the Local Blind Society and the Blind Persons Welfare Committee. It is the aim of the Blind Persons Welfare Committee to prevent any further cases of unemployable blind finding it requisite to have outdoor poor relief, as, it is undesirable to add to their distress by the so called stigma of pauperism.



RETURN SHOWING THE NUMBERS AND CLASSIFICATION OF THE  
BLIND IN THE BOROUGH, AS AT 31ST DECEMBER, 1925

### TABLE A—AGE PERIOD.

0-5			Age Period 5-16			Age Period 16-21			Age Period 21-30			Age Period 30-40			Age Period 40-50			Age Period 50-60			Age Period 60-70			Age Period 70			TOTAL		
M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.
2	0	2	8	6	14	3	2	5	1	3	4	7	5	12	8	5	13	10	8	18	10	7	17	13	9	22	62	45	107

### TABLE B—AGE INCIDENCE OF BLINDNESS.

Age Period 0-1		Age Period 1-5		Age Period 5-10		Age Period 10-20		Age Period 20-30		Age Period 30-40		Age Period 40-50		Age Period 50-60		Age Period 60-70		Age Period 70-		Unknown	TOTAL										
M	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.											
13	16	29	4	1	5	6	2	8	4	1	5	3	3	6	7	2	9	8	5	13	6	8	14	10	6	16	1	1	2	0	107

TABLE C--(a) EMPLOYMENT. AGE PERIOD 16 AND UPWARDS.

Employed			Trained but Unemployed			Under Training			No Training but Trainable			Unemployable			TOTAL			91 14 Children 2 under 2 years
M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	
2	7	28	1	0	1	1	1	2	1	0	1	31	28	59	55	36	91	107

F—FEMALES.  
T—TOTAL.

	Agents, Collectors, &c.	Basket and Cane Workers	0	1	Brush Makers	Clerks, Typists	Dealers (Tea Agents Shopkeepers &c.)	Hawkers	Home Teachers	Knitters	Mat-Makers	Mattress-Makers	Musicians and Music Teachers	Net Makers	Seamstresses and Upholsterers	Straw and String Bag Makers	Tuners	Miscellaneous	TOTAL
2	17	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	28

Mentally Defective (a)			Physically Defective (b)			Deaf (c)			Combinations of (a), (b) & (c)			TOTAL		
M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.
3	7	10	9	7	16	3	7	10	0	1	1	15	22	37

Normal.		Mentally Defective (a)			Physically Defective (b)			Deaf (c)			Combinations of (a), (b) and (c)			Total	Total Defectives	Percentage of Defectives in Total	
M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.			
8	6	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	0	0
									AT SCHOOL								
						0	0	0	0	0	0						

[illegible]

## VENEREAL DISEASE.

This work is undertaken at the Walsall General Hospital under an agreement with the Town Council, Dr. A. M. Stuart being the Medical Officer of this Department.

Evening Clinics for Males are held on Tuesdays and Fridays and an Afternoon Clinic for Females on Thursdays weekly. Provision is made for cases to remain in the Hospital over-night, if necessary, after injections.

A Special Clinic on Wednesday Afternoon reserved for cases requiring injection.

Facilities are afforded for irrigation of Cases of Gonorrhœa daily. A male and female nurse are engaged for this purpose.

Examinations of specimens are undertaken for Gonococci by Dr. Stuart, for other kinds, at the Birmingham University.

Arrangements are in force whereby women and girls suffering from venereal diseases in the Borough can be received into the Cleveland House, Wolverhampton, for treatment.

These cases arise generally in connection with rescue work cases at the Walsall General Hospital requiring a lengthy in-patient stay may also be transferred to Cleveland House.

The arrangement provides the requisite treatment and nursing, and it includes expectant mothers and lying-in cases.

Summary of the work from statistics furnished by Dr. Stuart:—

The number of persons receiving treatment for the first time in 1925 may be classified:—

	M	F	Total.	
Syphilis only ...	31	36	67	
Gonorrhœa only ...	46	8	54	
Soft Chancre ...	—	—	—	Conditions other than Venereal Disease
Syphilis and Gonorrhœa ---	—	—	—	
	<hr/>			
Totals	77	44	121	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div>M</div> <div>F</div> <div>Total.</div> </div>
				<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div>36</div> <div>23</div> <div>59</div> </div>



There were already receiving treatment on January 1st, 1925; for Syphilis, 53 males, 34 females; Gonorrhœa, 21 males, 7 females; other than Venereal Disease none, total 115.

Total number of persons who received treatment was 295, and the attendances at out-patient Clinic, 4,242 of which 2,731 were males and 1,511 females.

The aggregate number of "in-patient" days 137, of which 50 were males and 87 females.

The results may be analysed as follows:—

	Syphilis.		Soft Chancre.		Gonorrhœa.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F
Ceased to attend without completing treatment	22	24	—	—	25	4
Discharged from out-patient after completing treatment	4	3	—	—	5	—

Residential areas of patients were:—

		Walsall	Staffordshire	Worcestershire	London
Syphilis	... ..	50	14	2	1
Soft Chancre	...	—	—	—	—
Gonorrhœa	... ..	41	13	—	—
Condition of other than Venereal	... ..	47	12	—	—
Total	...	<u>138</u>	<u>39</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>

For Spirochettes —, Gonococci 233, other organisms none, specimens were examined by Dr. Stuart.

For Wassermann re-action 253 specimens, and for Gonococci 2 specimens were submitted to Birmingham University.

No of persons treated at Wolverhampton Centre:—

Syphilis	...	6
Gonorrhœa	...	3
Conditions other than Venereal...		5
Total		<u>14</u>

## SUMMARY OF WORK DURING THE PAST 5 YEARS.

Year	Admissions	Attendances		Total	Discharges		Cases found not suffering from V.D	Remaining under Treatment.
		Clinic	Inter-mediate		Ceased attending, Transferred and Died	Cured		
1921	269	2597	485	3082	248	50	46	200
1922	177	3084	954	4038	103	19	63	192
1923	142	2477	1122	3539	136	30	40	128
1924	151	1721	1489	3210	109	...	55	115
1925	180	1989	2253	4242	81	6	59	149

There is still the same difficulty in getting patients who have had treatment to keep attending until the necessary tests as laid down by the Ministry of Health have been made to prove their cure. These cases have to be counted as "ceased attending." The column headed "cases not suffering from V.D." include patients who present themselves for examination through fear of infection and found not to be suffering from V.D. and discharged. There has been an increase during the past two years of intermediate attendances for irrigations, dressings, and other treatment which are efficiently attended to by the Sister and Orderly under my supervision.

A. M. STUART. F.R.C.S.

# TUBERCULOSIS.

## NOTIFICATIONS (Tables 1 and 2).

There has to be recorded an increase in the number of primary notifications of both the Respiratory form of the disease, and of the other forms of Tuberculosis, 204 fresh cases of Tuberculosis of the Respiratory Organs having been notified during the year, as against 169 during 1924, and 85 cases of other forms of Tuberculosis as against 68 cases in the previous year.

The increase in the Notification is not due to any real increase in the incidence of the disease, but is due to more prompt notification by medical practitioners. Early in the year a circular letter was sent to all the general practitioners in the district, calling their attention to the apparent neglect of notification during 1924, and to the necessity of prompt and early notification being made. In every case where notification has not been made, an explanation is requested from the doctor in attendance.

Details of notification are given in the following tables.

TABLE I.

## Summary of primary notifications received during 1925.

Age groups	0-1	1-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-25	25-33	35-45	45-55	55-65	A b. 65	Total
Respiratory—Males	0	4	2	6	15	9	26	26	10	6	1	105
Respiratory—Females	0	1	12	12	15	20	19	12	5	1	2	99
Non-respiratory—Males	1	15	11	5	1	4	2	3	1	0	0	43
Non-respiratory—Females	1	20	5	6	2	1	4	2	1	0	0	42

TABLE II.

New cases of Tuberculosis coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health during 1925, otherwise than by notification on Form A or Form B.

[illegible]



These cases were distributed throughout the wards of the town as follows; the deaths occurring in each ward also being included.

TABLE III.

	Bloxwich	Leamore	Birchills	Hatherton	Paddock	Bridge	Pleck	Caldmore	Walsall Workhouse	Walsall General Hospital	Total
<b>Cases notified</b>											
Respiratory ...	12	19	35	16	24	20	36	42	—	—	204
Other forms ..	10	9	15	6	12	5	18	10	—	—	85
<b>Deaths</b>											
Respiratory ...	11	15	13	6	9	17	15	16	—	—	102
Other forms ...	2	3	6	2	5	1	3	—	—	—	22

## MORTALITY.

There has been a slight increase in the mortality from the disease during the year, although when one considers that there has been a greater increase in the General Mortality of the Borough, particularly from Bronchitis and Pneumonia, the slighter increase in the number of deaths from Tuberculosis is not a serious one. 102 deaths were recorded as being due to Respiratory Tuberculosis as against 91 in 1924, and 22 deaths from other forms of the disease as against 24 in the previous year.

The Death Rate from all forms of the disease has accordingly risen from 1·13 in 1924 to 1·21 in 1925, and for Respiratory Tuberculosis alone from 0·89 to 0·99 in 1925.

TABLE IV.

Age and sex distribution of all persons dying from Tuberculosis.

Age Groups	0-5 m f	5-10 m f	10-15 m f	15-20 m f	20-25 m f	25-35 m f	35-45 m f	45-55 m f	55-65 m f	Ab. 65 m f	Total m f
Respiratory	3 1	1 —	— 4	2 6	8 8	14 11	14 5	13 4	5 1	— 1	61 41
Non Respiratory	6 6	— 1	2 —	— 2	— —	1 2	— 1	1 —	— —	— —	10 12

Of the total deaths from Respiratory Tuberculosis, as will be seen from the following table, 21 were either not notified at all or were notified only a few weeks before death whilst of deaths from other forms of the disease 2 were not notified at all and 14 only a few weeks before death. This is an improvement on previous years, as some of the unnotified cases are accounted for by deaths of Walsall residents occurring in other districts.

	Respiratory Tuberculosis.	Other Forms.
Total Deaths ... ..	102	22
Cases not notified ... ..	8	2
Notification received after death ...	3	3
Death within two weeks of notification	4	9
Death within six weeks of notification	6	2

The ratio of the unnotified to the total deaths is 13·1%.

TABLE V.

Occupation of all persons belonging to the Borough of Walsall and dying from Tuberculosis during 1925.

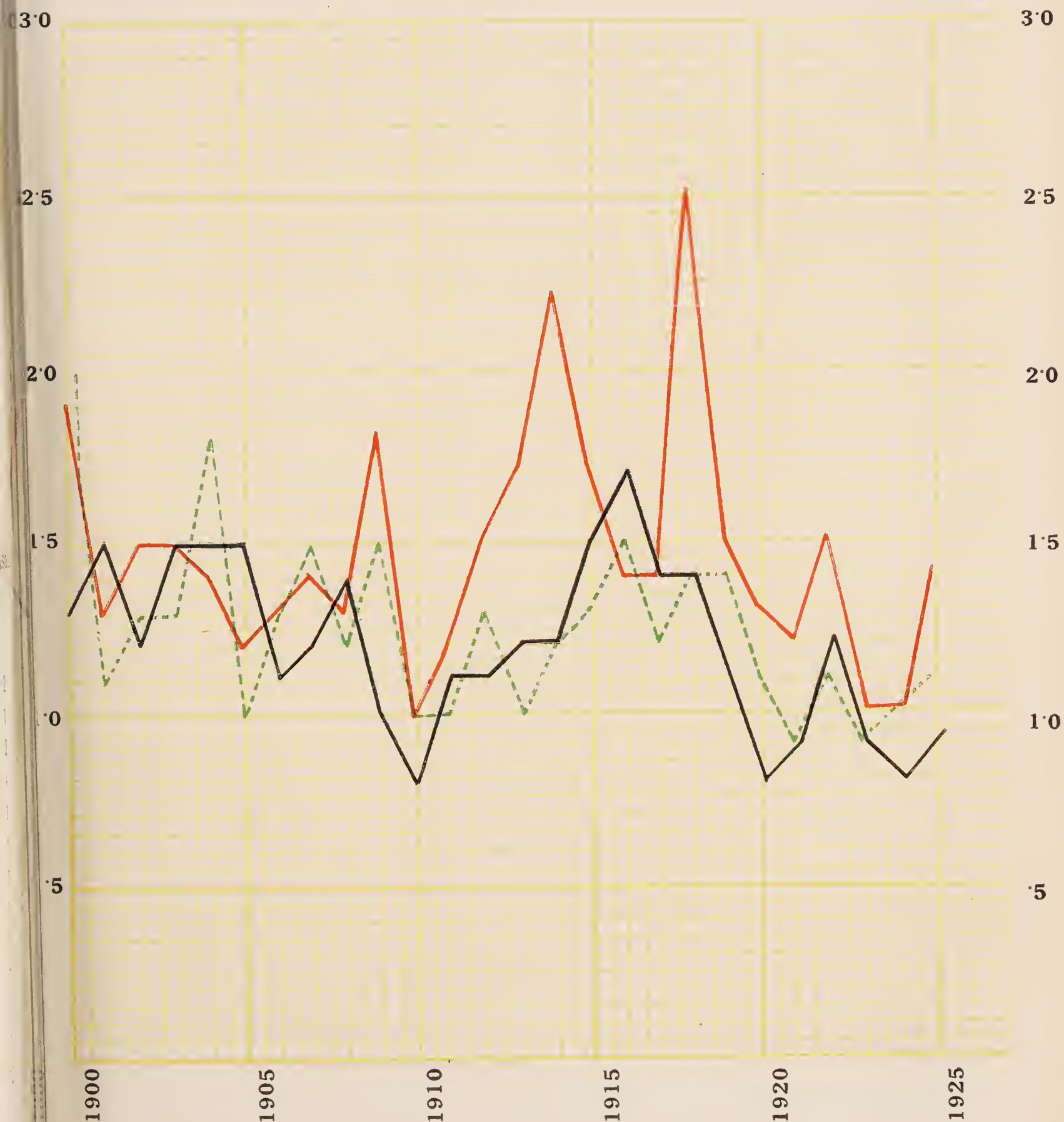
At or under School age ... 24	Harness makers ... .. 2
Leather Workers .. ... 7	Publican ... .. 1
Clerks ... .. 6	Night-watchmen .. .. 2
Housewives ... .. 20	Butcher ... .. 1
Domestic Servants etc, ... 3	Hawker ... .. 1
Miners ... .. 4	Upholsterer ... .. 1
Tailors and Tailoresses ... 4	Carpenter ... .. 1
Iron & Steel workers ... 14	Lithographer ... .. 1
Filers and Polishers ... 4	Tram Conductor ... .. 1
Castors ... .. 2	Labourer ... .. 1
Press Workers ... .. 5	Commercial Traveller ... 1
Engineers ... .. 3	Army Pensioner ... .. 1
Toolmakers ... .. 2	Nil .. ... 12

COUNTY BOROUGH OF WALSALL.

DEATH RATES PER 1,000 POPULATION.

Respiratory Tuberculosis	...	Black.
Pneumonia	...	Red.
Bronchitis	...	Green.

1900—1925.







## THE WORK OF THE TUBERCULOSIS DISPENSARY.

The following table, as furnished to the Ministry of Health, sets out the work done at or in connection with the Dispensary in a somewhat different manner from previous years.

From this and other tables, it will be seen that 130 males, 106 females, and 243 children under the age of 15—a total of 479—were examined for the first time during the year as against 399 in 1924. Of that number 24 males, 38 females and 97 children—total 159—were examined as being contacts of known cases of Tuberculosis.

Of the total 45 males, 65 females and 128 children were considered to be non-tuberculous. This diagnosis is only arrived at after repeated examination and in some cases prolonged observation.

5,071 attendances were made by patients at the Dispensary during the year, an average weekly attendance of 97·5.

TABLE VI.

Showing the work of the Dispensary during the year 1925.

DIAGNOSIS	PULMONARY				NON-PULMONARY				TOTAL			
	Adults		Children		Adults		Children		Adults		Children	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
A—NEW CASES examined during the year (excluding contacts):												
(a) Definitely tuberculous	59	42	7	14	7	7	21	28	66	49	28	42
(b) Doubtfully tuberculous	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	2
(c) Non-tuberculous	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	39	48	33	40
B—CONTACTS examined during the year :—												
(a) Definitely tuberculous	18	18	3	5	—	2	10	8	18	20	13	13
(b) Doubtfully tuberculous	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	4	2
(c) Non-tuberculous ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	17	23	32
C—CASES written off the Dispensary Register as :												
(a) Cured ...	24	22	3	2	1	2	4	4	25	24	7	6
(b) Diagnosis not confirmed or non-tuberculous (including cancellation of cases notified in error) ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	50	66	58	74
D—NUMBER OF PERSONS on Dispensary Register on December 31st :												
(a) Diagnosis completed ...	95	100	14	31	8	6	21	32	103	106	35	63
(b) Diagnosis not completed	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	9	13

TABLE VI—*continued.*

1. Number of persons on Dispensary Register on January 1st ...	287	9. Number of patients to whom Dental Treatment was given, at or in connection with the Dispensary ...	—
2. Number of patients transferred from other areas and of "lost sight of" cases returned ...	15	10. Number of consultations with medical practitioners:—	.
3. Number of patients transferred to other areas and cases "lost sight of" ...	49	(a) At Homes of Applicants ...	26
4. Died during the year ...	110	(b) Otherwise ...	16
5. Number of observation cases under A (b) and B (b) above in which period of observation exceeded 2 months ...	14	11. Number of other visits by Tuberculosis Officers to Homes ...	59
6. Number of attendances at the Dispensary (including Contacts)	5071	12. Number of visits by Nurses or Health Visitors to Homes for Dispensary purposes ...	5017
7. Number of attendances of non-pulmonary cases at Orthopædic Out-stations for treatment or supervision ...	nil	13. Number of	
8. Number of attendances, at General Hospitals or other Institutions approved for the purpose, of patients for		(a) Specimens of sputum, &c., examined ...	361
(a) 'Light' treatment ...	—	(b) X-ray examinations made in connection with Dispensary work	—
(b) Other special forms of treatment ...	—	14. Number of Insured Persons on Dispensary Register on 31st December ...	172
		15. Number of Insured Persons under Domiciliary Treatment on the 31st December ...	144
		16. Number of reports received during the year in respect of Insured Persons:—	
		(a) Form G.P. 17 ...	20
		(b) Form G.P. 36 ...	473

The Dispensary has been open as formerly on each day of the week, an evening session being held on the first and third Thursdays of the month. During the year, 989 surgical dressings were done by the nurses. Of the 479 persons examined for the first time during the year, 186 were insured persons, 72 of these being considered to be not suffering from Tuberculosis.

No less than 135 examinations or re-examinations were made on behalf of the Ministry of Pensions.

#### EXTENT OF TUBERCULOSIS IN WALSALL.

During the year, in accordance with instructions from the Ministry of Health, the Tuberculosis Register has been carefully revised and the names of all patients who have given satisfactory evidence of complete recovery from the disease, have been removed. In the following table details are given of the distribution of the disease throughout the various wards. From this table it will be seen that there are 1192 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 303 cases of other forms of the disease in the Borough.



TABLE VII.

	Pulmonary.			Non-pulmonary.			Grand Total.
	Males	Females	Total.	Males	Females	Total	
Bloxwich ... ..	59	43	102	21	8	29	131
Leamore ... ..	75	75	150	21	16	37	187
Birchills ... ..	107	130	237	20	36	56	293
Pleck ... ..	99	108	207	20	20	40	247
Caldmore ... ..	108	82	190	3	26	56	246
Bridge ... ..	65	34	99	14	11	25	124
Paddock ... ..	55	62	117	20	17	37	154
Hatherton ... ..	50	40	90	12	11	23	113
			1192			303	1495

## DOMICILIARY TREATMENT.

During the year 257 patients received this form of treatment from their own Medical Attendants, and 473 quarterly reports were received from them as to the physical condition and progress of the patients under their care.

## EXTRA NOURISHMENT.

26 patients on the recommendation of the Tuberculosis Officer were supplied with extra nourishment, chiefly in the form of milk, at a total cost of approximately £100. The Civic Guild of Help have again rendered valuable assistance to the Tuberculosis After Care Committee in carrying out any necessary investigations as to the financial circumstances of patients.

## SURGICAL TUBERCULOSIS.

During the greater part of the year, the Health Committee have had the use of 4 beds for the treatment of patients suffering from tuberculosis of the bones and joints. One adult female, and two children suffering from Hip Joint Disease, and one child suffering from Spinal disease, have received treatment at the Shropshire Orthopaedic Hospital. Three children suffering from Hip Disease have received treatment at the Birmingham Orthopaedic Hospital, The Woodlands, and St. Gerard's Hospital Coleshill.

At the end of the year four children remained under treatment, two at the Shropshire Orthopædic Hospital, and one each at the Woodlands and St. Gerard's.

TABLE VIII.

Sex and age constitution of all persons applying for advice or treatment, with results of examinations.

Age Groups.		0-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-25	25-35	35-45	45-55	Ab. 55	Totals
Pulmonary (Definite)	M	1	3	6	13	10	22	16	12	4	87
	F	1	7	11	14	19	11	11	4	1	79
Pulmonary (Suspected)	M	2	3	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	6
	F	1	3	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	7
Other forms	M	11	9	11	1	4	2	—	—	—	38
	F	13	6	7	1	—	4	3	1	1	35
Non-Tuberculous	M	12	26	18	4	4	15	12	6	4	101
	F	14	36	22	7	15	18	17	8	—	137

TABLE IX.

In the following Table an analysis of the occupations of the 239 patients suffering from Tuberculosis is given.

At or under School Age	...	86	Iron Casters	...	...	2
Shoesmith...	...	1	Filer	...	...	5
Housewives	...	29	Chimney Sweep	...	...	1
Night Watchman	...	1	Polisher	...	...	1
Leather Workers	...	12	Various	...	...	5
Ex-Servicemen	..	2	Basket Maker	...	...	1
Domestics	...	11	Labourers	...	...	13
Brass Dresser	...	1	Tool Setters and Makers	...	...	5
Apprentices	...	3	Miner	...	...	8
Tailoresses	...	2	Railway Workers	...	...	5
Engineer	...	1	Clerks	...	...	6
Telephone Operators	...	2	Carters	...	...	2
School Teacher	...	1	Warehouse Hands	...	...	2
Iron Workers	...	7	Draughtsman	...	...	1
Bobber	...	2	Rubber Worker	...	...	1
Acetylene Welders	...	2	Metal Workers	...	...	9
Baker	...	1	Nil	...	...	11

## HOME VISITS.

During the year the nurses paid 246 first visits and 4771 re-visits to the homes of patients. As in former years, many bad cases of overcrowding have been met with. When more adequate housing accommodation is extremely difficult to find for the majority of our patients, it requires a good deal of ingenuity to devise ways and means whereby the patient, at least, may have more suitable sleeping accommodation.

In only 40 cases were patients when first visited found to have a separate bedroom, in 50 others a separate bed was provided. the room being shared in 18 cases by 1 other, in 23 cases by 2 others, in 8 cases by 3 others and in one case 4 other persons occupied the same bedroom.

In 65 cases the affected persons occupied the same bed as a healthy member of the family, in 40 cases with 2 others and in 5 cases 3 others shared the same bed.

Beds and bedrooms were shared with other members of the same household, in 11 cases with 2 others, in 12 cases with 3 others, in 14 cases with 4 others, in 7 cases with 5 others, and in 2 cases 6 other persons occupied the same bedrooms.

These records reveal conditions of sleeping accommodation rather worse than those of 1924.

In 25 of the houses visited there was no through ventilation, in 37 cases the windows were never open, whilst in 49 cases the windows were only opened during the day, whilst in 19 cases the windows, although not opened at the time of the visit, were stated to be kept open at night.

The majority of the houses visited were kept clean and were well lighted, in 4 cases where the homes were very dirty, a report was made to the Sanitary Authorities. Seven cases of bad overcrowding were also brought to the notice of the Sanitary Authorities.



## LABORATORY EXAMINATIONS.

During the year the following examinations for the presence or absence of Tubercle Bacilli were made at the Dispensary :—

					Positive.	Negative.
Sputum	...	...	...	...	81	275
Cerebro-spinal Fluid	...	...	...	...	1	1
Pus, &c.	...	...	...	...	—	3

## INSTITUTIONAL TREATMENT.

In the following tables, as supplied to the Ministry of Health, are given details of all patients belonging to Walsall who have received Institutional Treatment under the local Tuberculosis Scheme, whether at Pelsall Sanatorium or at any other Institution to which they have been sent by the Local Authority.

From Table X, it will be seen that an average number of 43 beds have been available for Walsall patients and that 112 patients were admitted to these beds during the year, 104 being discharged and 9 having a fatal termination.

### TABLE X.

#### RESIDENTIAL INSTITUTIONS.

(A) Average Number of Beds Available for Patients during the Year 1925.

	Observation.	Pulmonary Tuberculosis.		Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.		Total.
		"Sanatorium" Beds.	"Hospital" Beds.	Disease of Bones and Joints.	Other Conditions	
Adult Males ...	1	13	4	1	—	19
Adult Females ...	1	10	2	—	1	14
Children under 15 ...	—	6	—	4	—	10
TOTAL ...	2	29	6	5	1	43

TABLE X—*continued.*

## RESIDENTIAL INSTITUTIONS.

(B) Return showing the Extent of Residential Treatment during the Year 1925.

			In Institutions on Jan. 1.	Admitted during the year.	Discharged during the year.	Died in the Institutions.	In Institutions on Dec. 31.
Number of Patients	Adults.	M.	13	49	45	6	11
		F.	10	35	33	2	10
	Children.	M.	2	6	4	—	4
		F.	5	18	16	1	6
Number of Observation Cases ...	Adults.	M.	3	3	5	—	1
		F.	—	1	1	—	—
	Children.	M.	—	—	—	—	—
		F.	—	—	—	—	—
	Total		33	112	104	9	32

In Table XI is given an analysis of the results of treatment according to the duration of in-patient treatment.

TABLE XI.

Classification on admission to the Institution.	Condition at time of discharge	Duration of Residential Treatment in the Institution.															
		Under 3 months.			3-6 months.			6-12 months.			More than 12 months.			TOTAL			
		M.		Ch.	M.		F.	Ch.	M.		F.	Ch.					
		M.	F.	Ch.	M.	F.	Ch.	M.	F.	Ch.	M.	F.	Ch.				
TUBERCULOSIS.	Class T.B. plus Group 1. Class T.B. minus.	Quiescent	...	...	6	6	2	5	3	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	24
		Improved	...	...	4	5	3	3	2	2	...	...	...	3	...	1	25
		No Material Improvement	...	...	...	3	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
		Died in Institution	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
		Quiescent	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
		Improved	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
		No Material Improvement	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Died in Institution	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Class T.B. plus Group 2.	Quiescent	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Improved	...	...	3	2	...	6	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	12
		No Material Improvement	...	...	1	2	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	5
		Died in Institution	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Quiescent	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Improved	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		No Material Improvement	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Died in Institution	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...





## PELSALL HALL SANATORIUM.

On January 1st. 1925, there were 16 males, 10 females and 5 children under the age of 15 under treatment.

During the year 52 males, 33 females and 18 children were admitted, and 50 males, 31 females and 16 children discharged.

There were 9 deaths, 6 males, 2 females and 1 child. In the 23 of the male, in 11 of the female patients and in one child, Tubercle Bacilli were found in the sputum.

12 Ex-servicemen, chargeable to the Ministry of Pensions, received treatment at the Sanatorium during the year.

Of the total admissions, 10 had previously had a course of Sanatorium treatment, 23 were in an advanced stage of the disease, 44 were early cases, and 6 were admitted for the purposes of observation.

Excluding children under age of 16, 15 patients (1 male and 14 females) did not come under the provisions of the National Insurance Act.

TABLE XII.

		In Residence January 1st, 1925.	Admitted during Year.	Discharged during Year,	Died.	Remaining Dec. 31st. 1925.
Sputum Positive	M	7	29	23	6	7
	F	5	14	12	2	5
Sputum Negative	M	9	23	27	—	5
	F	10	37	35	1	11

After observation, 5 males were considered not to be suffering from Tuberculosis.

TABLE XIII. Immediate Results on Discharge.

		Disease Quiescent.	Very much improved.	Improved.	No Improvement.
Sputum Positive	M	1	6	6	10
	F	1	—	2	9
Sputum Negative	M	15	8	3	1
	F	13	15	1	6

There have been no further developments at the Sanatorium during the year. The Dining and Recreation Room, provided by the conversion of the old hall in the latter part of 1924, has proved a great boon. The Billiard Table has been greatly appreciated, as has also the Wireless Set.

During the year, thanks to the good offices of Doctor Phillips, J. P. a very nice Chalet was gifted to the Sanatorium and has been used as an outdoor playroom by the children.

#### NURSING OF ACUTE OR BEDRIDDEN PATIENTS.

Early in 1925, an agreement was entered into between the Health Committee of the Town Council and the Victoria Nursing Institution, whereby the services of the District Nurses became available in all cases where the daily visit of a skilled Nurse to the Home was considered desirable by the Tuberculosis Officer. A grant of £100 per annum is made by the Health Committee to the Nursing Institution, and the arrangement had the approval of the Ministry of Health for a trial period of twelve months. For many years these services have been given gratuitously, the Tuberculosis Officer and the Health Visitors having referred many cases in the past, where relatives were unable to give proper attention to their very sick. It is only the straitened financial circumstances of this Charity that compelled the Executive Committee of the Institution to apply to the Health Committee for a grant.

The services which have been rendered have included the keeping of temperature charts, and for this twice daily and sometimes more frequent visits to the home have been necessary; the washing and blanket bathing of bedridden patients, the changing of bedsheets etc, and generally making the patients comfortable either during an acute stage of their illness or during the last few weeks of life. In addition, surgical dressings have been done where the patients have been unable to attend the General Hospital or the Dispensary for that purpose, and all the necessary nursing appliances have been provided, such as air cushions,



macintosh sheets, bedpans, urinals, air or water beds, back rests, bath chairs or spinal carriages etc. The services of the district Nurses have always been greatly appreciated in the Homes, and I am glad to have this opportunity of acknowledging my indebtedness to them.

During the nine months of the year that the arrangement has been in force, 3,192 visits have been made by the District Nurses to 50 patients. Of these 19 died, 13 have recovered, and the visits to 6 others were discontinued, 5 have been admitted to Hospitals or Sanatoria, the remainder being still on the books at the end of the year.

Surgical dressings were done in 14 cases, the necessary lint and bandages being supplied by the Institution. Nursing appliances were loaned out as follows:— a full size water-bed to one patient, air or water cushions to 7 patients, air rings to 19, bed-rests to 13, mackintosh sheets to 11, spinal carriages to 7 patients, and other nursing utensils to 36.

Nourishment from the Sick Relief Fund was given in 9 cases.

#### TUBERCULOSIS AFTER CARE COMMITTEE.

During the year the work of this Committee has gone on as formerly, well attended meetings being held monthly, the members taking a keen interest in the work, keeping the old patients under observation by paying friendly visits to their homes and reporting the results of their visits at the monthly meetings.

The income has been approximately £20, and the expenditure £14, leaving a balance in hand at the end of the year of £60.

43 cases have received help during the year, either in the form of money grants or by the provision of clothing or extra nourishment. In addition, 68 cases have been considered by the Committee, and help has been obtained from other sources.

Christmas Parcels were sent by the Committee to 10 deserving cases and extra grants of money were made to 2 other cases.

Grants of money were made from the funds in 9 other cases at a cost of £5, boots were provided for 3 children, and National Health Insurance arrears were paid in 2 cases.

The Guild of Help continues, with the approval of the Ministry of Health, to carry out the work of investigation on behalf of the Committee, and to report to the Committee at their monthly meetings. We are indebted to the Honorary Registrar (Miss Elliot) and to the Secretary (Miss Preston) for the valuable assistance they have given to the Committee. 370 reports have been submitted by the Guild during the year, and 379 visits have been paid by them to the homes of patients.

The After Care Committee continue to subscribe a sum of £2 2s. annually to the Royal Orthopædic Hospital, Birmingham.

## **REPORT OF THE SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER.**

for the year ended 31st December, 1925.

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Mr. Chairman, Mrs, Smith, and Gentlemen,

We have the honour to submit the Report of the work of the School Medical Service for the year ended 31st December, 1925.

### **STAFF.**

There is only one change to report in the Medical Staff, Dr. Adamson resigning in March 1925, on his appointment to the post of Medical Officer of Health, Wednesbury. Dr. Griffin was appointed in his place.

The benefits of the co-ordinated Nursing Scheme which had come into operation in November, 1924, have been manifest, there having been a large increase in the amount of work done by the Nurses, 33,990 children having been examined in the schools during the year, as against 22,534 in 1924. On an average 6·3 visits have been made to each School. In addition 1,907 visits were paid to School children in their own homes.

Owing to the rapid growth of the Medical Services of the town it became evident early in 1925 that additional Nursing Staff was required, and accordingly an extra Health Visitor was appointed and commenced duties in July.

As a result of the additional appointment, it was possible to allot one Nurse for full time duties at the Bradford Street School Clinic. This has been of very great advantage, has made for greater continuity of treatment and has much simplified the smooth working of the co-ordinated Scheme.

Even with this addition there is a large amount of work to be done and the Health Visitors find their time fully occupied with their various duties.

The co-ordinated Nursing Scheme has abolished over-lapping of work, the Nurse having charge of all the medical work in her own district, is now able to follow the child from birth, through the Welfare Centres right to the end of school days.



## SCHOOL HYGIENE.

Attention has been called in previous reports to the very unsatisfactory hygienic condition of some of the older schools. The lighting in many of these schools is poor, the fittings are old fashioned and the number of burners insufficient for the size of the rooms. When so much time is being spent on testing the childrens eyes and so much money on providing them with glasses surely it is wisdom to have the lighting of their classrooms more up to date.

We trust that the time is not far distant when these old schools will be replaced by new and model schools.

## MEDICAL INSPECTION.

During the year 5,289 children were examined as routine inspections. There has been a slight diminution in the number of children examined at the routine medical inspections, but this is due to the fact that there has been strict adherence to the three age groups. In previous years we have examined children outside the age groups in an endeavour to catch up arrears.

There has been however a marked increase in the number of re-inspections and special inspections. 2,176 children were re-inspected and 1,895 special examinations were made. The former figure included the great majority of children who were found to have defects at the routine medical inspections and were re-inspected some weeks later to see if the treatment advised had been obtained. All children gaining scholarships from the public elementary schools to Queen Mary's School are medically examined and the granting of the scholarship is dependent upon their physical well being.

## CO-OPERATION OF PARENTS AND TEACHERS.

A large number of parents attend for the medical inspection of the younger children but the attendance falls off as the children get older. It is most noticeable that the parents of the clean children attend, whilst the parents of dirty and neglected children stay away.

The teachers render excellent help by entering on the record cards particulars as to height, weight, etc. In addition they are constantly sending children to the Clinic whom they consider require special medical supervision. An observant teacher can render great assistance to the school doctor. The attendance officers co-operate in many ways, chiefly by looking up chronic absentees and persuading them to attend the Clinic. By chronic absentees one means children who habitually absent themselves for one or more half days per week. The attendance officers also keep an eye on children who have been excluded from school for a long period but who do not seem to be under any regular medical supervision.

### FINDINGS OF MEDICAL INSPECTION.

Amongst the more serious defects one might mention are, defective vision for which 335 children were found to require treatment, for enlarged tonsils and adenoids 88, and 109 cases of enlarged tonsils or enlarged adenoids; 116 cases of bronchitis and 37 of spinal curvature were found to require treatment.

The majority of cases of defective vision are cases of simple hypermetropia or long sight, only a small number of cases are myopic or short sighted.

During the year some special statistics with regard to the incidence of tonsils and adenoids have been obtained at the request of the Board of Education. Children suffering from this defect have been very thoroughly examined and will be re-examined several times during the next five years. It is thus hoped that fresh light will be cast on the causes of enlarged tonsils and adenoids and also on the advisability of the operative removal of these growths.

Spinal Curvature occurs most frequently amongst the leavers; often children of this age grow very rapidly and as a result they droop their shoulders and stand badly. This is more marked if for any reason the children are somewhat "below par" and as their general health improves the round shoulders and curved spine often disappears.

## UNCLEANLINESS.

There are still far too many cases of uncleanliness in the schools. Cases of body vermin are fortunately rare but there are still some and invariably it is the same families which are defaulters.

One had hoped that the fashion of short hair would result in a considerable diminution in the number of dirty heads, but unfortunately this has not followed, and dirty heads are still with us in large numbers. So many of the mothers are indifferent and their invariable excuse when reprimanded is that "the child's head is washed once a week" whereas it is obvious that the washing of the head does not take place with such regularity, moreover much more frequent attention to the head is essential if the evil results of neglect are to be avoided.

## THE WORK OF FOLLOWING UP.

All defects found at the routine inspections are notified to the parents in writing, they are then at liberty to obtain the necessary treatment either from their private Doctor or from the Clinic. This note is followed later by a visit from the School Nurse to the homes of the children suffering from the defect to see whether the necessary treatment has been obtained, if not they are able to explain to the mothers as to the necessity of treatment being obtained and as to how to obtain that treatment.

The Children's After-Care Committee continue to give valuable assistance in the provision of boots, clothing, glasses etc., whilst the Poor Children's Country Holiday Fund provides holidays for many delicate children who would not otherwise obtain a change of scene.

## MEDICAL TREATMENT.

Minor ailments constitute by far the greater number of cases attending the School Clinics and during the year the attendances have been even more numerous than they were in 1924. It is exceedingly difficult to know how to cut down these attendances, as there is much poverty in the Borough and many parents are unable to pay the fees required for private medical attention. It is



felt however that many parents could exercise greater care for their children and could give greater attention to simple hygienic rules. So many of the minor ailments e.g. Impetigo, Scabies, etc, which crowd our School Clinics are essentially dirt diseases, they are diseases which could be prevented.

The increased numbers have meant great overcrowding of accommodation at the Bradford Street Clinic and a new additional Clinic is urgently required. More Nurses have been allocated to the work and a Doctor is now in attendance at the Clinic each morning; but even so it is difficult to keep up with its attendances.

Field Street Clinic was transferred from the School to the New Welfare Centre in Field Road in April. This is a much more convenient building and the carrying out of the Clinic work has been greatly facilitated.

During the year 31,240 attendances were recorded at Bradford Street and 6,071 at Field Road.

### DEFECTIVE VISION.

523 children received treatment for defective vision at the Clinic. There is now very little opposition to the wearing of glasses but parents are dilatory in getting broken spectacles repaired.

### ANÆMIA.

There are always a large number of children found suffering from Anæmia. This is a disease which is more prevalent amongst girls than boys and is in many cases due to over crowded home conditions and lack of fresh air. In all cases of anæmia enquiries are made as to the bed time of the child and whether the bedroom window is kept open at night.

We believe that parents are beginning to realize that young growing children require plenty of sleep. The good results of early bedtime are however often negatived by overcrowded bedrooms, and lack of fresh air during the night. Bedroom windows are seldom opened at night time as they should be, and even to-day it is not unusual for the chimney outlet to be also blocked up.

The most common complaint we get at the Clinics is that of the child who sleeps badly, complains of headache on waking, and who has no appetite for his breakfast. These are symptoms of oxygen deficiency and are dispelled by a plentiful supply of fresh air during the night.

### ENLARGED TONSILS AND ADENOIDS.

During the year 269 cases were referred to the Hospital for expert advice and operative treatment if necessary. Such treatment is only advised where the growths are causing injury to the child's health.

### CRIPPLED CHILDREN.

A scheme for the establishment of an Orthopædic Clinic in the premises of the School Clinic, Bradford Street, was drawn up and submitted to the Education Committee in July last for their approval. Under the scheme it was suggested that arrangements be made with the Cripples Union and Orthopædic Hospital, Birmingham, whereby the necessary staff for running this Clinic would be supplied by these institutions. It was considered that the following staff would be necessary, viz :—(a). The part time services of a nurse specially trained in Orthopædic work who would spend part of her time at the Clinic and part in visiting children, who were unable to attend, in their own homes. (b). The part time services of a trained masseuse. (c). An Orthopædic Surgeon who would pay monthly visits to the Clinic.

It was further suggested that arrangements be made with the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee to bear the cost of the treatment of children under school age, and with the Tuberculosis Committee for the treatment of all Orthopædic cases suffering from <sup>our</sup> ~~Tuberculosis~~ disease.

The cost of the scheme, other than in-patient treatment, was estimated to be £338 per annum.

The Town Council to whom the scheme was recommended for approval by the Education Committee, also approved of the scheme,

but unfortunately owing to some oversight, details of the scheme were not submitted to the Board of Education until December, 1925. The approval of the Board has not yet been obtained.

From the figures given in the statistical part of this report, it will be noted that the number of physically defective children is considerably greater than that shown in the previous year. This is due to the fact that a very complete survey was made last year and the ascertainment of physically defective children is now on a much more accurate basis.

We are indebted to the Massage Department of the Walsall General Hospital for their kindness in arranging treatment for all cases of spinal curvature sent to them, such cases have shown great improvement after a course of massage.

### INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

During the year there has again been much infectious disease. There have been epidemics of Measles, Whooping Cough and Mumps. Diphtheria which was so prevalent in the Bloxwich and Leamore Wards during 1924 has been with us throughout the year.

**Diphtheria.**—349 cases of Diphtheria were notified to the Health Department during 1925, as against 364 in the previous year. Bloxwich and Leamore have again suffered much more than any part of the town, 237 cases having occurred in these two wards. We have again been handicapped in dealing with the outbreak by the failure of parents to realize the seriousness of this disease and consequently their failure to call in medical advice at the earliest moment.

All contacts of school age are excluded through the Health Department and information sent to the various schools, the contacts not being readmitted to school again until declared free from infection by the Health Department.

**Scarlet Fever.**—198 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified to the Health Department during the year as against 222 cases in 1924. For the most part the cases were of a particularly mild type and complications were few.



**Measles and Whooping Cough.**—These two diseases first appeared in Palfrey towards the end of March and rapidly spread throughout the Borough. Five children of school age died from Measles and one from Whooping Cough, these diseases being much more fatal in children under school age. The loss of school attendance has been very great, particularly in the Infant Departments.

Unfortunately these two diseases are particularly difficult to control owing to the apathy of parents who regard them lightly. They are however the cause of much ill health in after years, and account for many cases of Chronic Bronchitis and unresolved Pneumonias who afterwards swell the attendances at the School Clinics.

**Other Diseases.**—During the first quarter of the year Influenza of a mild type was exceedingly prevalent and school children in particular suffered very severely. Fortunately no children of school age succumbed to the disease. Mumps was very prevalent in the Butts, Chuckery and Caldmere Areas during the first quarter of the year. The year finished up with an outbreak of German Measles; this disease is fortunately of a very mild character and rarely causes any impairment of health.

#### OPEN AIR SCHOOL.

The results for the year have been quite satisfactory. Good improvements in the health and physique of the scholars are shown by this year's records, as by those of previous years. The school has enjoyed almost complete freedom from epidemics.

The following statistics may be of interest as showing the progress made:—

Number of children on books	...	60
Children found fit for transfer to ordinary schools in course of year		55
Average monthly gain in weight	...	75 lbs.
„ „ „ „ height	...	29 inches.
Average time spent in school by children at present on books	...	6 months.

The school has been open 422 times in the course of the year 1925 and the percentage of attendance has been 92. This standard of attendance is very satisfactory considering the special circumstances of the school, and the fact that it was not once closed for adverse weather conditions.

There are now on the books 35 girls as against 25 boys, and it is very necessary that the lavatory accommodation for the girls should be increased.

The arrangements for cooking and provision of meals are proceeding satisfactorily and the dinner menus are more varied than formerly but additional equipment for cooking is required so that more dishes can be added.

There is always a long list of children waiting to be admitted and re-admitted to the Open Air School. In far too many cases the children go down hill when they return to their ordinary schools and thus have to be re-admitted two or three times to the Open Air School.

Additional Open Air Schools in other parts of the Borough are very necessary, so that it may be possible to deal with a greater number of delicate children, and so that the children may spend longer periods under the ideal conditions of these schools.

#### MENTAL DEFECTIVES.

After prolonged negotiations the Beacon Industrial School at Lichfield was acquired by the Town Council, for the purpose of a residential school for the training of mentally defective children. The work of adaptation and of redecoration took some considerable time, and the school was not ready for opening at the end of the year.

The Occupation Centre carried on by the Voluntary Association for Mental Welfare at the School Clinic, Bradford Street, has had a successful year under the capable supervision of Mrs. Whitehouse.

In the previous year only girls had been admitted, but at the

mid-summer term it was found possible to admit 5 boys. In all 26 mentally defective children are receiving instruction at the Occupation Centre or in their own homes. The supervisor reports at the end of the year that "Improvement in the quality of the hand-work is to be noted. Several children can now be trusted to take work home. This they bring to school on class days for correction. The children also made all the decorations for their room at Christmas. With one exception all the children are now cured of unpleasant or dirty habits. The exception is an imbecile boy, and he is certainly improving, if slowly."

Owing to inability to secure suitable accommodation, it has not been found possible to extend this work to Bloxwich where, it is very desirable, that a branch Occupation Centre should be opened.

With the early opening of Beacon School for the reception of educable school children in view, a further survey of all defective school children has been made during the year. The work of classification has occupied a considerable amount of time but in examining the very large number of children referred for the purpose of ascertaining their intellectual ability, it becomes very apparent that we cannot go on much longer without the formation of special classes for children who may be classed as "Dull and Backward". There are many children who are retarded educationally from two to three years. These children cannot be called Mentally Defective yet the presence of 2 or 3 such children in a class with normal children of their own or a less age is a hindrance to the other children, a burden to the teacher and of no profit to themselves. In the interests of the normal children they must be left very largely to themselves and the natural tendency is for them to fall into mischief.

#### DENTAL REPORT.

Mr. Griffiths in reporting on the work of the Dental Clinic writes:—"I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report for the year ending December 31st, 1925, together with details of the number of children inspected in school and of the subsequent treatment given at the Clinic.



The dental examination of the younger children still reveals an alarming quantity of gross defects and associated sepsis. This is chiefly due to the general lack of parental interest in the temporary dentition coupled with a complete failure both to understand its importance and the necessity of preserving it from damage.

Thus there is much scope for educating the parents in the methods and requirements of oral hygiene, and in the suppression of such harmful habits as eating between meals, and I am therefore glad to say that increasing numbers of parents are now attending the dental inspections at school.

Another factor which accounts for the condition of a number of the younger children is the defective enamel structure of the first permanent molars.

This naturally predisposes to extensive caries, calling for many fillings, and is probably due to a period of vitamine deficiency or other nutritional disturbances operating during the first two years of life when these teeth are calcifying.

The percentage of acceptances of treatment is rising, though it varies both with the locality and with its distance from the Clinic, being as high as 85% in some schools, and averaging nearly 62%.

In conclusion I wish to mention the very able assistance I have received from the Dental Nurse throughout the year."

#### STATISTICAL TABLES.

The Statistical Tables required by the Board of Education are attached hereto.

We are, Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Smith and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servants,

JAMES A. M. CLARK, M.D.,

Medical Officer of Health.  
School Medical Officer.

D. BARBARA NORMAN, M.B.,

School Medical Inspector.

12th April, 1926.

## AREA. WALSALL C.B.

TABLE I. NUMBER OF CHILDREN INSPECTED  
1st JANUARY, 1925, TO 31st DECEMBER, 1925.

## A. ROUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTIONS.

Number of Code Group Inspections—

Entrants	...	...	...	1769
Intermediates	...	...	...	1474
Leavers	...	...	...	2046
				Total 5289

Number of other Routine Inspections B. other Inspections.

Number of Special Inspections	...	1895
Number of Re-Inspections	...	2176
		Total 4071

TABLE II. RETURN OF DEFECTS FOUND BY MEDICAL INSPECTION  
IN THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1925.

Defect or Disease.				Routine Insp.		Special Insp.	
				Requiring Treatment.	Requiring to be kept under observation but not requiring treatment.	Requiring Treatment.	Requiring to be kept under observation but not requiring treatment.
I				2	3	4	5
Skin	Malnutrition	...	...	7	13		
	Ringworm	...	...				
	Scalp	...	...	7	2	40	
	Body	...	...	2	—	18	
	Scabies	...	...	14	5	34	
	Impetigo	...	...	21	4	121	
Eye	Other Diseases (Non-Tuberculous)			8	19	278	
	Blepharitis	...	...	17	12	46	
	Conjunctivitis	..	.	3	3	86	
	Keratitis	...	...	2	—	18	1
	Corneal Opacities	...	...	4	4	2	
	Defective Vision (excluding Squint)			335	39	43	
	Squint	...	...	58	7	10	
	Other Conditions	...	...	2	1	21	
	Defective Hearing	...	...	12	5	31	
Ear	Otitis Media	...	...	13	4	22	
	Other Ear Diseases	...	...	11	1	57	
Nose and Throat	Enlarged Tonsils only	...	...	62	137	373	55
	Adenoids only	...	...	47	14	38	5
	Enlarged Tonsils & Adenoids	...	...	88	19	143	
	Other Conditions	.	...	7	2	99	

TABLE II—continued.

Defect or Disease.				Routine Inspector's		Special Inspector's	
				Requiring Treatment.	Requiring to be kept under observation but not requiring treatment.	Requiring Treatment.	Requiring to be kept under observation but not requiring treatment.
(1)				2	3	4	5
Heart and Circulation	Enlarged Cervical Glands (Non-Tuberculous)...			15	37	114	11
	Defective Speech ... ..			2	5	1	
	{	Heart Disease —					
		Organic ... ..		8	25	20	9
		Functional ... ..		1	15	11	2
Lungs	{	Anæmia ... ..		41	52	153	17
		Bronchitis ... ..		116	84	332	89
		Other Non-Tubercular Dis. ..		3	2	267	
Tuberculosis.	{	Pulmonary—					
		Definite ... ..		2	1	14	
	{	Suspected ... ..		10	4	39	16
		Non-Pulmonary					
	{	Glands ... ..		1	2	8	1
		Spine ... ..				6	
	{	Hip ... ..		1		2	1
		Other Bones and Joints ...			1	4	
Nervous System	{	Skin ... ..		2		2	
		Other forms ... ..		1	2	4	2
		Epilepsy ... ..		1		9	
		Chorea ... ..		1		29	2
		Other conditions ... ..		2	3	30	
Deformities.	{	Rickets ... ..		4	20	4	2
		Spinal Curvature ... ..		37	12	16	1
		Other forms ... ..		16	11	52	5
		Other defects and Diseases ...		59	34	758	13

B. NUMBER OF INDIVIDUAL CHILDREN FOUND AT ROUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTION TO REQUIRE TREATMENT (EXCLUDING UNCLEANLINESS AND DENTAL DISEASES.)

Group.	Number of Children.		Percentage of children found to require treatment.
	Inspected	Found to require Treatment.	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Code Groups ... ..			
Entrants ... ..	1769	391	22.1
Intermediates ... ..	1474	310	17.5
Leavers ... ..	2046	309	16.9
Total (Code Groups) ...	5289	1010	19.1



## AREA. WALSALL C.B.

TABLE III. RETURN OF ALL EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN  
IN THE AREA.

			Boys	Girls	Total
Blind (including partially Blind)	(i) Suitable for training in a School or Class for the totally Blind	Attending Certified Schools or Classes for the Blind...	2	1	3
		Attending Public Elementary Sch's	—	—	—
		At other Institutions	—	—	—
		At no School or Institution	—	—	—
	(ii) Suitable for training in a School or Class for the partially Blind	Attending Certified Schools or Classes for the Blind...	6	3	9
		Attending Public Elementary Sch's	2	—	2
		At other Institutions	—	—	—
		At no School or Institution	1	—	1
Deaf including Deaf & Dumb and partially deaf	(i) Suitable for training in a School or Class for the totally deaf or deaf and dumb	Attending Certified Schools or Classes for the Deaf ..	7	3	10
		Attending Public Elementary Sch's	—	—	—
		At other Institutions	—	—	—
		At no School or Institution	—	—	—
	(ii) Suitable for training in a School or Class for the partially deaf	Attending Certified Schools or Classes for the Deaf ...	—	—	—
		Attending Public Elementary Sch's	7	6	13
		At other Institutions	—	—	—
		At no School or Institution	—	—	—
Mentally Defective	Feeble-minded (cases not notifiable to the Local Control Authority)	Attending Certified Schools for Mentally Defective Children ...	6	5	11
		Attending Public Elementary Sch's	19	11	30
		At other Institutions	5	6	11
		At no School or Institution	11	3	14
	Notified to the Local Control Authority during the year	Feeble-minded ... ..	1	1	2
		Imbeciles ... ..	1	—	1
		Idiots ... ..	—	—	—
	Physically Defective	Infectious Pulmonary and Glandular Tuberculosis	At Sanatoria or Sanatorium Schools approved by the Ministry of Health or the Board ...	—	6
At other Institutions			—	—	—
At no School or Institution			18	15	33

TABLE III.—*continued.*

			Boys	Girls	Total
Physically Defective	Non-Infectious but active Pulmonary and Glandular Tuberculosis	At Sanatoria or Sanatorium Schools approved by the Ministry of Health or the Board ...	—	—	—
		At Certified Residential Open Air Schools ...	—	—	—
		At Certified Day Open Air Schools	—	—	—
		At Public Elementary Schools ...	28	23	51
		At other Institutions ...	—	—	—
		At no School or Institution ..	2	2	4
	Delicate children, (e.g. pre or latent Tuberculosis, Malnutrition, Debility, Anaemia, &c)	At Certified Residential Open-Air Schools ...	—	—	—
		At Certified Day Open-Air Schools	30	30	60
		At Public Elementary Schools ...	66	86	152
		At other Institutions ...	—	—	—
		At no School or Institution ...	4	8	12
	Active Non - Pulmonary Tuberculosis	At Sanatoria or Hospital Schools approved by the Ministry of Health or the Board ...	4	—	4
		At Public Elementary Schools ...	1	2	3
		At other Institutions ...	9	1	10
		At no School or Institution ...	7	2	9
	Crippled Children (other than those with active Tuberculosis) e.g. children suffering from paralysis, &c., and including those with severe heart disease	At Certified Hospital Schools ..	—	—	—
		At Certified Residential Cripple Schools ...	—	—	—
		At Certified Day Cripple Schools...	—	—	—
		At Public Elementary Schools ...	93	78	171
		At other Institutions ...	—	1	1
		At no School or Institution ...	31	35	66
Epileptics	Suffering from Severe Epilepsy	Attending Certificated Special Schools for Epileptics ..	—	—	—
		In Institutions other than Certified Special Schools ...	—	—	—
		Attending Public Elementary Sch'ls	—	—	—
		At no School or Institution ...	5	4	9
	Suffering from Epilepsy which is not severe	Attending Public Elementary Sch'ls	4	3	7
		At no School or Institution ...	3	1	4

## AREA. WALSALL C.B.

TABLE IV. RETURN OF DEFECTS TREATED DURING THE YEAR  
ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1925.

Group 1. Minor Ailments (excluding Uncleanliness, for which See Group 5).

Disease or Defect. (1)	Number of Defects treated, or under treatment during the year.		
	Under the Authority's Scheme (2)	Otherwise (3)	Total (4)
Skin—			
Ringworm—Scalp ... ..	39	—	39
Ringworm—Body ... ..	32	—	32
Scabies ... ..	29	—	29
Impetigo ... ..	319	—	319
Other Skin Disease ... ..	401	—	401
Minor Eye Defects—			
External and other, but ex- cluding cases falling in Group 11 ... ..	151	—	151
Minor Ear Defects ... ..	104	—	104
Miscellaneous e.g. minor injuries, bruises, sores. Chilblains, etc. ... ..	3221	—	3221
Total	4286	—	4286

Group II. Defective Vision and Squint excluding Minor Eye Defects treated  
as Minor Ailments—Group I.)

Defect or Disease (1)	Number of Defects dealt with			
	Under the Authority's Scheme (2)	Submitted to refraction by private prac- titioner or at Hospital apart from the Authority's Scheme (3)	Otherwise (4)	Total (5)
Errors of Refraction (including Squint) ... ..	523	6	—	529

TOTAL NUMBER OF CHILDREN FOR WHOM SPECTACLES WERE  
PRESCRIBED—

(a) Under the Authority's Scheme 419 (b) Otherwise —

TOTAL NUMBER OF CHILDREN WHO OBTAINED OR RECEIVED  
SPECTACLES—

(a) Under the Authority's Scheme 390 (b) Otherwise —



## AREA. WALSALL.

TABLE IV--*continued*.

Group III Treatment of Defects of Nose and Throat.

Received Operative Treatment			Received other forms of Treatment	Total Number Treated
Under the Authority's Scheme in Clinic or Hospital	By Private Practitioner or Hospital apart from the Authority's Scheme	Total		
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
269	—	269	—	269

## GROUP IV—DENTAL DEFECTS.

(1) Number of children who were—

(a) Inspected by the Dentist—

Routine Age Groups (6 & 7)	1445	
Specials	739	Total 2184

(b) Found to require treatment 2131

(c) Actually treated ... .. 1444

(d) Re-treated during the year as the result of periodical examinations	1261
---	------

(2) Half days devoted to—

Inspection	27
------------	----

Treatment	381	Total 406
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(3) Attendances made by the Children for Treatment ... .. 3655

(4) Fillings—

Permanent Teeth...	1747
--------------------	------

Temporary Teeth...	1015	Total 2762
--------------------	------	------------

(5) Extractions—

Permanent Teeth...	752
--------------------	-----

Temporary Teeth	6052	Total 6804
-----------------	------	------------

TABLE IV—*continued.* DENTAL DEFECTS.

(6)	Administrations of local anæsthetics for Extractions	...	..	6804	
(7)	Other Operations—				
	Permanent Teeth...	...		196	
	Temporary Teeth...	...		250	Total 446

## GROUP V—UNCLEANLINESS AND VERMINOUS CONDITIONS.

(i)	Average number of visits per school made during the year by the School Nurses	...		6'3	
(ii)	Total number of examinations of Children in the Schools by the School Nurses	...		33,990	
(iii)	Number of individual Children found unclean			2,915	
(iv)	Number of Children cleansed under arrange- ments made by the Local Education Authority	...	...	...	...
(v)	Number of cases in which legal proceedings were taken:—				
	(a) Under the Education Act, 1921	...		—	
	(b) Under School Attendance Bye-Laws			—	

# ANNUAL REPORT

## OF THE

# CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

Being that for the year ended December 31st, 1925.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.*

MR. CHAIRMAN, MRS. CRESSWELL, AND GENTLEMEN,

I herewith submit to you a Report for the year 1925 giving particulars of the work performed under your direction by the Inspectorial Staff of the Health Department.

TABLE 1,  
Nuisances and other matters dealt with.

	Bloxwich and Leamore Wards.	Hatherton and Paddock Wards	Birchills and Pleck Wards	Bridge and Caldmore Ward.	TOTAL	
Foul drains, water closets, prives, ashpits. sinks, urinals	434	272	314	259	1279	
Offensive accumulations	14	10	6	9	39	
Animals kept as to be a nuisance ... ..	30	6	4	7	47	
Black smoke, gas leakages ...	1	3	1	2	7	
Unwholesome premises needing limewashing .. ...	39	25	7	18	89	
Insufficient water closets, ashpits, drains ... ..	119	84	64	119	386	
Dwelling houses needing repairs ... ..	214	189	200	174	777	
„ overcrowded ... ..	27	12	38	16	93	
Sundry ... ..	2	7	28	17	54	
TO BOROUGH SURVEYOR {	Buildings or wells unsafe	39	27	57	19	142
	Buildings erected. no plans submitted	3	—	—	2	5
	Insufficient water supply	—	2	—	—	2
Totals ...	922	637	719	642	2920	



TABLE I.—*continued.*

	Bloxwich and Leamore Wards.	Hatherton and Paddock Wards.	Birchills and Pleck Wards.	Bridge and Caldmore Wards.	TOTALS
To cleanse ashpits .. ..					4783
No. of notices on books 31/12/24	129	86	129	108	452
No. of Nuisances and other mat- ters reported during the year	798	640	617	572	2627
No. of informal notices served during the year .. ..	522	502	551	507	2082
‡No. of statutory notices served during the year .. ..	223	114	190	141	668
No. of Nuisances abated ..	739	640	610	555	2544
No. of notices not compiled with December 31st, 1925 ..	188	86	136	125	535
‡A notice may include several nuisances or other matters					
<b>Notices not complied with include—</b>					
Nuisances .. ..	12	9	8	10	39
Overcrowded dwelling-houses	16	5	21	7	49
Privies for conversion ..	46	3	11	4	64
Housing repairs .. ..	59	14	44	23	140
Insufficient closets, ashpits, &c.	33	33	26	53	145
Other matters .. ..	22	22	26	28	98

TABLE II.

## SANITARY WORK IN COMPLIANCE WITH NOTICES.

	Bloxwich and Leamore Wards.	Hatherton and Paddock Wards.	Birchills and Pleck Wards.	Bridge and Caldmore Wards.	TOTALS
<b>ADDITIONAL STRUCTURES PROVIDED.</b>					
Water Closets .. ..	104	46	36	31	217
New Cisterns in W.C's ..	39	57	64	61	221
New Soil Pipes .. ..	1	1	—	—	2
Ashbins } Replacing Ashpits .	198	183	125	94	600
} „ worn-out bins	21	33	39	34	127
Connections to sewer ..	25	4	1	—	30
Intercepting traps .. ..	21	4	2	1	28
Drain traps .. ..	82	34	10	16	142
Inspection Chambers ..	55	21	9	10	95
Ventilating shafts .. ..	53	24	14	9	100
Pipe drains, yards in length ..	2694	474	146	118	3432
Sanitary sinks and waste pipes	7	10	12	13	42
New Urinals .. ..	2	—	—	—	2
„ Washhouses .. ..	—	3	—	1	4

TABLE II.—*continued.*

	Bloxwich and Leamore Wards.	Hatherton and Paddock Wards.	Birchills and Pleck Wards.	Bridge and Caldmore Wards.	TOTALS
REPAIRS MADE.					
Privies converted into W.C's ...	100	5	5	1	111
Water closets (structure) ...	21	38	56	20	135
Privies ...	7	2	4	—	13
Ashpits ...	19	7	7	3	36
*W.C. pans fitted ...	31	63	48	52	194
„ traps fitted ...	10	26	15	9	60
„ flushing cisterns ...	6	20	11	29	66
Drain ventilating shafts ..	8	1	8	16	33
Drains repaired ...	32	22	36	32	122
„ cleared ...	84	61	64	66	275
Water closets cleared ...	9	29	48	26	112
Sinks ...	1	9	4	7	21
„ fitted with waste pipes ...	6	7	4	6	23
Drains disconnected ...	3	9	4	11	27
New covers to inspection chambers ...	5	—	4	2	11
Houses newly drained ...	57	4	7	—	68
Yards repaved ...	4	3	6	7	20
Gas mains repaired ...	—	3	—	1	4
S.S. Water Laid on ..	—	—	—	1	1
INSANITARY STRUCTURES DISPENSED WITH:—					
Privies .. ...	38	—	—	8	46
Ashpits ...	85	72	38	47	242
Urinals ...	4	—	1	—	5
W.C's ...	9	6	11	2	28
*Includes Pedestals ...	20	17	19	14	70

## HOUSES IMPROVED.

TABLE III

By Repairs to Houses.	Bloxwich and Leamore Wards.	Hatherton and Paddock Wards.	Birchills and Pleck Wards	Bridge and Caldmore Wards.	TOTALS
Houses repaired throughout ...	111	118	100	109	438
Lodging Houses repaired throughout ...	—	9	—	12	21
Houses re-spouted	65	33	49	38	185
„ whitewashed throughout	3	3	3	—	9
„ sash cords fitted and windows repaired ...	4	9	18	7	38
„ floors repaired ...	4	7	7	3	21
„ other minor repairs ...	8	16	12	12	48

TABLE III—*continued.*

	Bloxwich and Leamore Wards.	Hatherton and Paddock Wards.	Birchills and Pleck Wards.	Bridge and Caldmore Wards.	TOTAL
By improving W.C. and ash- pit accommodation	518	406	332	343	1599
By abatement of other nuisances	466	361	402	316	1545
Washhouses repaired ..	10	10	17	8	45
New boilers and fireboxes ..	1	6	3	9	19
Boilers and fireboxes repaired	5	12	11	10	38
OVERCROWDING					
Houses vacated ... ..	5	—	—	1	6
No. of inmates reduced ...	10	11	22	9	52
UNFIT HOUSES.					
No. demolished .. ..	3	—	1	—	4
No. closed .. ..	3	—	1	1	5
Temporary structures vacated	1	—	—	—	1

Situation of houses demolished; Leamore Ward—Harden Farm; Bloxwich Ward—Nos. 1 and 2 in 2 Court, Park Road (closed 1914); Birchills Ward—No. 91, Wolverhampton Street.

Situation of houses closed; Bloxwich Ward—Nos. 8 and 9 in 2 Court, Sneyd Lane (By Order); Birchills Ward—No. 3 back 61, Shortacre Street (Voluntarily); Caldmore Ward—Cottage, Follyhouse Lane (Voluntarily).

TABLE IV.

### SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS AT FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

	Bloxwich and Leamore Wards.	Hatherton and Paddock Wards.	Birchills and Pleck Wards.	Bridge and Caldmore Wards.	TOTALS
Rooms limewashed ... ..	3	29	12	31	75
New water closets ... ..	36	1	—	5	42
Water closets repaired ...	2	5	6	6	19
Flushing cisterns fitted or repaired ... ..	—	5	1	4	10
New drains ... ..	1	—	—	—	1
Drains cleared ... ..	—	1	5	2	8



## OUTWORKERS' HOMES.

32 lists were received containing names of 30 male and 38 female homeworkers and 4 contractors in the following trades: Clothing, chains, cart-gear and brushes. Each outworker was visited, the home being found in a satisfactory state. Two small workrooms needed cleansing and limewashing. No infectious disease has occurred in an outworkers' home during the year.

TABLE V.  
REGISTERED PREMISES UNDER REGULAR INSPECTION

	Bloxwich and Leamore Wards.	Hatherton and Paddock Wards.	Birchills and Pleck Wards.	Bridge and Caldmore Wards.	TOTALS
Dairies and Milk Shops ...	19	29	40	50	138
Milk shops where sterilized } or bottled milk only is sold. }	64	50	112	113	339
Cowsheds ... ..	18	10	1	5	34
Wholesale (sterilising factories)	—	3	2	—	5
Bakehouses-factory ...	5	6	9	8	28
„ workshop ..	6	3	16	15	40
Slaughter houses-registered ..	2	—	5	7	14
„ -licensed ...	4	1	5	10	20
Butchers Shops ... ..	20	14	41	47	122
Ice-cream Shops ... ..	47	60	57	69	233
Fried Fish Shops ... ..	28	16	30	26	100
Houses-let-in lodgings ..	—	5	—	5	10
Common Lodging Houses ..	—	1	1	9	11
Workshops ... ..	32	83	64	166	345
Outworker's homes ... ..	6	10	12	19	47
TOTALS ... ..	251	291	395	549	1486

REGISTERED PREMISES WHERE REPAIRS HAVE  
BEEN CARRIED INTO EFFECT.

Water closet and drains repaired at a Bakehouse.

Five Cowsheds have been put into satisfactory repair.

Fried Fish Shops, two re-decorated and lime-washed, and in one case the chimney has been raised.

Elementary Schools, the drainage system at one School has been re-laid to sewer and water closets substituted for privies. Ashbins have been substituted for ashpits at two Schools.

At 40 factories or workshops the W.C. accommodation has been improved.

## TABLE VI.—Unwholesome Food Destroyed.

## TUBERCULOUS.

BOVINE—23 Carcases and all organs (including 4 calf carcasses), 29 Heads, 8 Forequarters, 4 Hindquarters, 95 pieces of Beef and Trimmings, 539 sets of Lungs, 209 Livers, 272 other organs.

PIGS—3 Carcases, 15 Heads, 3 pieces of Pork, 39 sets Fry and 154 other organs.

## OTHER DISEASES, UNSOUND, ETC.

BOVINE—6 Carcases and all organs, 1 Leg of Veal, 18 Heads, 25 pieces of Beef, 65 sets of Lungs, 258 Livers, 44 other organs.

PIGS—19 Carcases and all organs, 35 Frys, 18 other organs.

SHEEP AND LAMBS—26 Carcases and all organs, 5 Heads, 129 Livers, 21 Plucks, 30 pieces of Mutton, 41 other organs.

IMPORTED BEEF—1 Hindquarter, 1 Forequarter and several Joints.

IMPORTED PORK—30 Loins.

RABBITS—126 English.      PICKLED MEAT— Beef, 40lbs., Pork, 18lbs.

BACON—46½lbs.      TOMATOES—96lbs.

APPLES—4 Boxes.      RAISINS—3 Boxes.

EGGS—3925.

FISH—Hake 1½stone, Cod Fish 5½lbs., Kippers 10 boxes, Fresh Haddock 80lbs.

## CANNED GOODS.

FISH—102 tins      MEAT—29 tins      TOMATOES—150 tins.

FRUIT—227 tins      CONDENSED MILK—114 tins

LIQUID EGGS—3 tins      OTHER FOODS—1 tin

In all cases the food stuffs were surrendered voluntarily on inspection; a Justices Order was, however, obtained in connection with one lot of fish.

TABLE VI.—*continued.*

## Summary of Weight of Meat Condemned.

BOVINE	Tuberculous	18,856 lbs.	}	19,499 lbs.
PIGS	„	643 lbs.		
BOVINE	Other Diseases	6,192 „	}	9,564 „
PIGS	„	1,865 „		
SHEEP	„	1,507 „		
PICKLED MEAT	Unsound Beef	40 „	}	58 „
„	„ Pork	18 „		
IMPORTED BEEF	Other Diseases, &c.	513 „	}	1,303 „
„	PORK	770 „		
„	KIDNEYS	20 „		
OTHER FOODS—Rabbits		252 lbs.		
	Bacon	46½ „		
	Fish	156½ „		
	Tomatoes	96 „		
	Raisins	30 „		
	Apples	40 „		
	Eggs	490 „		
	Canned Foods	1,129 „		2,240 lbs.
Totals		...	...	32,664 lbs.

or nearly 14½ tons total weight.

With but few exceptions these Unsound Foods were destroyed in the incinerator at the Public Works Depot, Wolverhampton Street.



TABLE VII.  
Magisterial Proceedings.

Act under which Proceedings were taken.	Nature of Offence.	Remarks.
1. Sale of Food and Drugs Act.	<p>Selling milk 8·33% deficient in cream and containing 11·17% added water.</p> <p>Selling milk 8·33% deficient in cream and containing 11·76% added water.</p>	Dismissed on payment of costs. 5/- each per case.
2. Do.	Selling milk 10% deficient in cream.	Case dismissed.
3. Housing Act. 1925.	<p>Non-compliance with notice to quit house for which a closing order is operative.</p> <p>No. 8. House 2 Court, Sneyd Lane, Bloxwich,</p>	Order made to cease to inhabit the house within 28 days.
4. Public Health Act, 1875.	<p>Not abating nuisance from obstructed drains.</p> <p>7 Court, Wisemore.</p>	Order made for abatement within 48 Hours, and to pay costs 8/6.
5. Do.	<p>Not abating nuisance from defective roof.</p> <p>No. 460, Pleck Road.</p>	Order made for abatement in 7 days and to pay costs 8/6.

TABLE VIII.

## Disinfection of Bedding, etc.

The "Thresh" steam disinfector was used for disinfecting the following articles, viz:—

		From Sanatorium.	From Infected Houses.
Beds	.. ...	3	677
Bolsters	... ..	—	360
Pillows	... ..	20	859
Blankets	... ..	35	362
Sheets	... ..	2	428
Counterpanes	... ..	2	123
Other Articles	... ..	11	366
Total		<u>73</u>	<u>3,175 = 3,248</u>

Disinfector out of action from August 10th to September 28th.

No. of days Disinfector was used	...	...	259
No. of persons supplied with Lime Brushes		...	2,682
„ „ „ „ „ Lime	...	...	4,111
„ „ „ „ „ Disinfectants		...	2,908

## INFECTED HOUSES, DECEMBER 31st, 1925.

		Bloxwich & Leamore.	Hatherton & Paddock.	Birchills & Pleck.	Bridge & Caldmore.	Total.
Scarlet Fever	...	4	3	4	5	16
Pneumonia	...	4	9	9	8	30
Diphtheria	...	2	—	4	1	7
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	...	—	—	1	—	1
		<u>10</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>54</u>

## DRINKING WATER.

In the year, 1 sample of South Staffordshire water and 1 sample of well water were obtained and submitted for bacteriological examination at Birmingham University.

## DRAIN TESTS.

86 drain tests were made, 26 being in connection with houses where infectious disease or other illness had occurred, 43 where nuisances were alleged, 9 in rat infested premises, 2 on application for sanitary certificate, and 6 for testing relayed drains, the number of premises involved being 292 houses, 1 institution, 1 factory and 2 workshops.

In 40 of the tests, smoke was the agent used, in 36, drain grenades served, and in 10 cases, coloured water was applied.

In 4 cases drains were opened for examination under Section 41 of the Public Health Act.

117 defects were found as the result of drain testing.

## NOTICES UNDER SECTION 36, PUBLIC HEALTH ACT— INSUFFICIENT WATER CLOSETS AND ASHPITS.

It was necessary for the Borough Surveyor to supply 46 ashbins to dwelling-houses where owners had made default in complying with notice, at the owner's expense.

## FERTILIZERS AND FEEDING STUFFS ACT, 1906.

No samples taken during the year.

## INCREASE OF RENT AND MORTGAGE INTEREST (RESTRICTIONS) ACT, 1922.

Four applications were received for a certificate that the house was not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation. In each case a certificate was issued.

## SANITARY ACCOMMODATION AT THEATRES, MUSIC HALLS, ETC.

The Sanitary accommodation has been satisfactorily maintained throughout the year.



## CANAL BOATS ACTS.

Report for the year ended December, 31st, 1925.

The Chief Sanitary Inspector visits the canals in different parts of the Borough.

### INSPECTIONS—BOATS.

Number of Boats inspected	...	...	...	...	3
Number of Boats conforming with Acts and Regulations					3
„ „ with one or more infringements				...	Nil

### OCCUPANTS.

Number of men on Boats	...	...	...	...	4
Number of women on Boats	...	...	...	...	2
Number of children on Boats :—					
under 5 years of age	...	...	...	...	1
over 5 and under 12 years		...	...	...	3

The total registered accommodation on the 3 boats was for 10 adult persons, and the total number occupying equalled 8 adults. 1 boat had a fore cabin, this was used as a sleeping place. The condition of the boats may be classified as—Good. The sanitary state of the boats was good, and the cabins and their appurtenances cleanly.

The occupants appeared to be in good health.

There were no infringements, and no case of infectious disease found on the boats.

It was found impracticable during the year to devote as much time as formerly to Canal Boat inspection, owing to increase of work in connection with Infectious Disease, (particularly Diphtheria), and work in connection with the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, which came into force on April 1st.

## RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT, 1919

Complaints as to infested premises have been considerably reduced, active measures for rat repression in the past few years having practically exterminated rats and done away with their haunts, infested premises at the present time are few in number.

As a general condition, apart from farms or agricultural land, rat infestation is nearly always associated with defective drainage systems or premises on which foods stuffs are readily available. Any known case is dealt with as one of extreme urgency.

Sewers, sewage disposal works, allotments, and small holdings have been treated where infested, and in addition, 3 foundries, a brush works, a clothing factory, a printer's establishment, 2 farms, 4 schools, 18 retail shops, 3 slaughterhouses, and 12 private houses, were inspected and kept under observation owing to the prevalence of rats or mice, in a number of cases poison baits were laid.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries fixed a National Rat Week which commenced on November 2nd, 1925, thus affording an opportunity of calling attention to the ravages caused by rats and also enabled the giving of reminders to the public that it is the duty of all occupiers of premises infested with rats or mice to destroy these pests. This was done by advertisements, posters, handbills and letters, circulated throughout the Borough.

During the year, upwards of 20,000 poison baits have been laid under supervision of the Sanitary Inspectors, viz :—Sewers or sewage disposal works 5,500, allotments 10,000, Arboretum 3,000, private houses 800, retail shops 750, factories 350, schools 300, the material used being either Barium Carbonate, or Red Squill, except in a few cases where "Sticky" traps were prepared.

Rat Week was highly successful, and public interest on the question was keenly aroused. I would, however, emphasize the view that the only safe and reliable method for the destruction of rats and mice is systematic and continuous action.

### CHANGES IN STAFF.

Mr. I. O. Williams, Assistant Sanitary Inspector, who had been in charge of the Birchills and Pleck Wards for about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  years, resigned on April 11th, to take up an appointment at Blyth. The vacancy was filled by the appointment of Mr. W. E. Shaw, who commenced duty on July 13th, 1925.

Mr. F. Turner, Assistant Sanitary Inspector, after 12 years service in Bloxwich and Leamore Wards, resigned on December 31st, to take up the position of Senior Sanitary Inspector, at Cannock.

### ADDITIONAL DUTIES.

Additional duties under (1) the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, (2) various Sections of the Walsall Corporation Act, 1925, and (3) the Tuberculosis Order of 1925, necessitated re-arrangement in the work of the Staff, and at the end of the year the new duties were being carried on fairly smoothly.

### INCREASE IN STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS.

On preparing the Tables II, III, and IV relating to structural work, it was found as compared with the past two years that a considerable increase in the number and quality of improvements had been effected, 111 privies were converted to water closets, while 46 other privies were demolished and removed, water closets being substituted. No fewer than 217 new water closets were provided during the year, partly for bringing the sanitary accommodation up to the standard set by the Health Committee, partly for replacing foul privies or worn out hand-flushed water closets.

### HOUSING IMPROVEMENTS.

The number of dwelling-houses repaired, &c., is 759, and in addition to this the sanitary condition of 3,144 other houses was considerably enhanced by work for nuisance abatement or the provision of additional and more up-to-date water closets and ashbins.

### FISH FRIERS.

Five applications only were received for consent to the establishing of the trade of a fish frier.

In each case the applicant undertook to instal an up to date stove and submitted a list of signatures of persons residing near the premises proposed to be used, and who had no objection to such a business being commenced.



One person wished to establish the trade in a van, this was considered unsuitable and the application was refused.

In the other four cases consent was given, one applicant however has not availed herself of the consent, 6 months having elapsed, and the business has not been commenced.

### CONCLUSION.

In submitting this report I wish to call attention to the splendid work of the Assistant Sanitary Inspectors and Clerks during the year. Each one has carried out his duties well, and given every assistance with matters arising under most recent Acts and Orders.

To the Health Committee I tender very sincere thanks for their support and kindness, and would mention particularly their efforts for the improvement of small house property during a somewhat difficult period.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Cresswell, and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

ARTHUR T. HUBBLE,

Mem. of the Sanitary Inspectors' Association.

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Health Department,

Council House, Walsall.

29th March, 1926.

To The Cattle Diseases Committee,

WALSALL TOWN COUNCIL.

MR. MAYOR AND GENTLEMEN,

THE TUBERCULOSIS ORDER OF 1925.

I beg to submit a report of work done under this Order from September 1st to December 31st, 1925.

On the 20th July, 1925, you resolved that the Chief Sanitary Inspector be appointed an Inspector under the Diseases of Animals Act, 1894 to 1922, for the purpose of executing the Tuberculosis Order of 1925, and Mr. A. E. Paley was appointed the Veterinary Inspector under the Order.

The Order came into operation on the 1st September, 1925.

I have to report that in the 4 months ended 31st December, 1925, the Veterinary Inspector examined at 4 separate farms, 5 cows in milk, and 3 other cows or heifers, suspected to be suffering from Tuberculosis. On 1 farm the disease was not confirmed by the Veterinary Inspector. On the other 3 farms 3 cows in milk and 1 heifer were reported as diseased, and were ordered to be slaughtered, 1 cow and 1 heifer were suffering from Tuberculous Emaciation, and 2 cows were suffering from Tuberculosis in the lungs.

Each of these animals was slaughtered, and compensation was paid in accordance with the provisions of the Order.

An arrangement has been made with the Pathological Department, Birmingham University, for the examination of specimens of the lesions and milk.

Yours obediently,

ARTHUR T. HUBBLE,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Health Department,

Council House, Walsall.

29th March, 1926.

# REPORT OF THE PUBLIC ANALYST,

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1925

To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1925. 226 samples were submitted to me for Analysis during the year. All samples were taken by the Chief Sanitary Inspector under the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts.

124 samples were purchased without the formalities of the Acts.

102 samples were purchased with the formalities of the Acts.

Table A gives particulars of the samples:—

TABLE A.

Nature	Number Analysed	Number Adulterated
Milk ... ..	100	10
Milk (Machine skimmed) ..	1	—
Milk (dried full cream) ..	1	—
Milk (condensed) ... ..	14	—
Cream ... ..	7	—
Butter ... ..	32	—
Margarine ... ..	5	—
Cheese ... ..	17	—
Lard ... ..	12	—
Coffee ... ..	7	—
Cocoa ... ..	6	—
Pepper ... ..	7	—
Mustard ... ..	2	—
Sausage ... ..	1	—
Luncheon Sausage ... ..	1	—
Aerated Water ... ..	1	1
Rum ... ..	3	—
Whisky ... ..	4	—
Gin ... ..	4	—
Vinegar ... ..	1	—



4·86 % of the samples were adulterated. The percentages of adulteration for 1924 and 1923 were 4·4 and 10·4 respectively.

### MILK.

100 samples were examined of which 10, equivalent to 10% were adulterated. The percentages of adulteration for 1924 and 1923 were 8·1 and 21·2 respectively.

The average composition of the 100 samples was as follows:—

Solids not Fat	...	8·84%
Fat	...	3·46%
Total Solids	...	12·30%

Table B gives particulars of the adulterated samples:—

TABLE B.

Sample No.	Nature of Adulteration.	Result.
41	10·0% Deficient in Cream.	See Chief Sanitary Inspector's Report pages 51- 54.
45	26·6%   "   "   "	
48	11·6%   "   "   "	
51	8·33%   "   "   " and 11·17% added water.	
52	8·33% 11·76%   "   "	
55	1·66% Deficient in Cream.	
58	6·66%   "   "   "	
79	10·0%   "   "   "	
102	10·0%   "   "   "	
154	1·66%   "   "   "	

None of the Milks contained Preservatives.

### BUTTER.

32 samples were examined. All samples were genuine. All samples contained preservative.

Table C gives the percentages of Boric Acid found.

TABLE C.

Sample No.	Boric Acid.
7	·0250%
8	·0500%
10	·0560%
12	·0740%
16	·1120%
17	·0374%
24	·0180%
25	·2110%
34	·0180%
38	·0310%
65	·0240%
72	·0270%
74	·0180%
111	·0124%
117	·0124%
122	·0186%
123	·0248%
127	·1116%
132	·0248%
157	·0434%
160	·0496%
166	·0248%
167	·0248%
169	·0372%
190	·0403%
192	·1900%
194	·0558%
195	·1480%
196	·0460%
198	·0372%
203	·0403%
205	·0372%

## MARGARINE.

Five Samples, Nos. 1, 5, 13, 81, 135 were submitted, which were found to be genuine. Two samples were guaranteed to contain 10% Butter Fat, in

No. 1 10·1 % Butter Fat was found.

No. 135. 9.95% „ „ „

Four samples contained Preservative.

Table D gives the percentages of Boric Acid found,

TABLE D.

Sample No.	Boric Acid.
5	·1050%
13	·0250%
81	·0980%
135	·2628%

### CREAM.

Seven samples were analysed. All were genuine.

Sample No. 231 was guaranteed to contain 23% Fat and 30% Milk Solids.

Table E gives the analysis of the seven samples analysed.

TABLE E.

Sample No.	Fat.	Boric Acid.
14	49·5%	Nil
15	51·7%	„
54	55·0%	„
77	38·5%	„
78	38·5%	„
93	47·3%	„
231	23·1%	„

### SAUSAGE.

One sample, No. 76, was submitted, and found to be genuine, containing ·119% Boric Acid.

### LUNCHEON SAUSAGE.

One sample, No. 75 was submitted, and found to be genuine, containing ·076% Boric Acid.



## ÆRATED WATER.

One sample, No. 150, was submitted. It smelt strongly of Carbolic Acid.

## CONDENSED MILK.

Samples 88, 91, 92, 161, 168, 199, 201, 202, 204, were labelled "Condensed Machine Skimmed Milk, Sweetened," and on dilution as per instructions on tin gave a good Skimmed Milk. Samples 87, 89, 162 and 170 were labelled "Condensed Full Cream Milk Unsweetened," and on dilution gave a good Full Cream Milk. Sample No. 90 was labelled "Condensed Skimmed Milk Sweetened," and on dilution gave a good Skimmed Milk.

## DRIED MILK.

Sample No. 9 was labelled "Dried Full Cream Milk," and on dilution as per instructions on package, it gave a good Full Cream Milk.

## MACHINE SKIMMED MILK.

Sample No. 103, was submitted, and was found to be genuine.

## FERTILIZERS AND FEEDING STUFFS ACT.

No samples were submitted.

I have the honour to remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

FRANK E. THOMPSON, A.R.C.S., Lond., F.I.C.,

Public Analyst.

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